



Grace Lutheran Church

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

"His Light on the Lakeshore"

November 2023 Congregational Newsletter



Calling a Pastor

Call Meeting Thursday, November 2nd

All congregation members are welcome to join for our next Call meeting. On Thursday, November 2nd at 6:00 P.M. our voters will once again ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we choose a man to be the next Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. May God's Will be done as we ask Him to bless us with a new Shepherd!



GRACE LUTHERAN
COORDINATING COUNCIL

have their names put on the ballot for those two positions, please contact Chairman Steve Janke. If no other members place their names on the ballot for these two seats, Tom and Mike will run unopposed.

The position of Finance Elder is vacant. We are looking for voting members who may wish to run for that seat. Once again, contact our chairman if you are interested. Elections will be held during our December Voters' Meeting.

Election News:

Worship Elder Tom Meineke will be seeking re-election for his seat, as will Property Elder Mike Remiker. If any voting members of the congregation wish to



Sunday, November 5th – 8:00 and 10:45 A.M.

Monday, November 6th – 6:30 P.M.

Sunday, November 12th – 8:00 and 10:45 A.M.

Monday, November 13th – 6:30 P.M.

Sunday, November 19th – 8:00 and 10:45 A.M.

Monday, November 20th – 6:30 P.M.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 22nd – 6:30 P.M.

Thanksgiving Day Service

Thursday, November 23rd – 9:00 A.M.

Sunday, November 26th – 8:00 and 10:45 A.M.

Monday, November 27th – 6:30 P.M.

Livestream Worship Sunday Mornings
8:00 A.M. Service



During the months of September and October, an analysis of our congregation has been taking place. We are studying congregational feedback given both in written form and from two different open forum meetings held during those months. We are also looking at certain aspects of the total Grace Lutheran Church picture in our Coordinating Council meetings. What follows are some statements based on feedback and self-study. These comments address the strengths we see here at Grace Lutheran, along with weaknesses, opportunities and threats to our congregation.

- *Feedback and Self-Study Shows That Our Members' Love for Grace Lutheran is Evident.*
- *The Obvious Strength of our Congregation Goes Without Saying: The Word of God is preached and taught in its truth and purity!*
- *Feedback and Self-Study Shows That There is a Love and Support for our Preschool as well as Excitement About Its Potential.*
- *Feedback and Self-Study Shows That There is a Growing Concern about the Lack of and Losing of Young Families.*
- *Feedback and Self-Study Shows That We Are Struggling with A Large Decline in Sunday and Monday Church Attendance.*
- *Self-Study at the Coordinating Council Level Shows a Troubling Budget Shortfall That May Become a Larger Problem Once We are Paying a Full-Time Pastor.*

Where do we turn? First, we address the blessings and concerns listed above in prayer to our Loving Lord. For His blessings we thank and praise Him. As to the concerns we ask for His love, guidance and direction trusting He will do what is best for His congregation.

Second, we continue to meet, study and analyze - asking God to be our guide as we do so. We look for ideas regarding outreach, in-reach and ministry. We look for ways to welcome back our straying members. We encourage first fruit giving. We worship regularly – coming to church for Word and Sacrament. We work with Member Ministry asking, “Where might I serve?”

Third, we continue to storm the throne of heaven with prayers asking for a full-time pastor. May God’s will be done as we ask Him for a Shepherd!

Changes may be coming! Perhaps we should say changes must come! Get involved! Share your thoughts! Pray for our Lord’s love and continue to rejoice in the fact that He loves His congregation of believers at Grace Lutheran Church. May all we do be done for Him and His glory!



Jesus' Lambs of Grace

By God's grace, our Jesus' Lambs of Grace preschool has already completed the first quarter of the school year! His little ones are hearing – every day – about the Love of Jesus their Savior! May our preschool continue to be a gem in our congregation as it brings children closer to their Savior through the sharing of His Word.

A blessing to report from the preschool was that over \$3000.00 was raised and donated to St. Jude's Children's research hospital through a "Trike-A-Thon" held here on the campus. The

kids rode their trikes (and bikes) to raise the funds! May God bless this gift as it is used at St. Jude's to combat the sadness of childhood cancer.

Our preschool board is currently studying our "Summer Camp" program, trying to determine if this annual undertaking can continue as in past years. We'll keep everyone informed on the progress of this discussion as it unfolds over the next month or so.

Our preschool also continues to look for extra help. Please feel free to share the following request with anyone you might think may be interested:

HELP WANTED

Part-time Afternoon Preschool Assistant Position Available: *Jesus' Lambs of Grace (2426 N. Rapids Rd., Manitowoc) is looking for one or more people willing and able to assist with the care of children during the afternoon hours of 1:00-5:30pm Monday through Friday. This shift could be split if we have more than one person interested. If you, or someone you know, over the age of 18, loves working with kids, has one or more afternoons available, and would like a flexible part-time job, please contact the preschool at 920-482-0001 and ask for Peg Janke.*

May God continue to bless our Jesus' Lambs of Grace preschool!



Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11th. On Sunday, November 12th we would like to recognize our Grace members who have served our country in the Armed Forces.

We are asking that if you are one who has served, please bring a photograph of yourself **in uniform** to the church office by noon on Friday, November 10th. We would like to display these photographs in the fellowship hall. Pictures in frames are more than acceptable!

We are so thankful for all those who have served, are currently serving, and who will one day serve our country! Thank you for your dedication, time and service.

We would also encourage our veterans to attend the **Veterans Breakfast and Service** at **Manitowoc Lutheran High School** on Wednesday, November 8th. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 - 9:30 A.M. with a Veterans Worship Service to follow at 10:00 A.M.

Member Ministry Corner

Spiritual Gifts are to be used in Service to God and to Others



Spiritual gifts are divine abilities distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer according to God's design and grace for the common good of the body of Christ. What is God's desire for us regarding spiritual gifts? He wants us to know what ours are.

There are many different spiritual gifts and they are all given by the Holy Spirit. Just as there are different gifts, there are different ways to serve. But no matter what our spiritual gifts are, God works through our service and through us. It doesn't matter if you are the pastor, serving a meal, teaching Sunday School, planting flowers, or any other act of service. It's in HOW we work, and WHO we are.

The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts not for our own benefit, but for the benefit of others, so that his Kingdom continues to be shared. All spiritual gifts are to be used in love and with Christian motivation. Paul says in 1st Corinthians 13 that if someone is serving without love, it is like a clanging cymbal that gains nothing. In other words, if we serve with the wrong motives, motives that are meant for our own gain, we are not working for God's purpose.

It is a misconception that if we do not have certain gifts we are not part of the church. We cannot compare or compete with others because we are all equally important, no matter what our gifts are. And we need each other whether we think we do or not. We ALL add value in one way or another! And no one person should be trying to do it all. No one is gifted with EVERY spiritual gift. Imagine how exhausting that would be! That is not how God intended it to be.

The Holy Spirit plants interests in us. He gives us an inclination or a willingness to try a particular form of service to others. Part of that encouragement comes from outside of us as well. He places specific opportunities before us to use our gifts. Being asked to serve in some way we have never done before may be the Spirit's way of calling us to a new form of service for which he has equipped us. We need to learn to recognize and respond to the nudging and opportunities placed before us.

We should not just sit and wait until there is a convenient time for us to serve. Life is busy and that "convenient" time may never come. God puts us in the right places at the right times. It's in His time, not ours. So, the next time you are invited to serve, take some time to pray about it and ask God to guide you in the right direction. And then trust that he will!

Heidi Malley, Member Ministry Coordinator

***If you are not sure what your spiritual gifts are, or how to put them to use, we can help.
Please contact Heidi at 920-682-7377 or gracelutheran2@tm.net***

Grace Lutheran Church Membership Changes:

Jennifer Monke – Transferred to St. Peter Lutheran in St. Peter, Minnesota on September 14th, 2023.

Brad, Brooke, Easton and Ava Claxton – Transferred to Bethany Lutheran, Manitowoc on September 14th, 2023.

Roy & Kim Radzinske – Released Per Their Request on October 12th, 2023.

Mark Kortens – Accepted into Membership Through Profession of Faith on October 12th, 2023.



Baptism:

Eleanor Karen Welnicke, Daughter of Troy & Cassie Welnicke, was Baptized on October 15th, 2023.

Day Light Savings Time Change:

Sunday, November 5th is the end of Daylight Savings Time. Remember to change your clocks **BACK** one hour on Saturday night, November 4th.



Grace Game Night:

Players of all ages are welcome to join in fellowship on the evening of Saturday, November 9th from 6:00-8:00 P.M. for a few games and a lot of fun! Feel free to bring a game or learn a new one. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Grace Circle:

The next Grace Circle meeting is on Thursday, November 9th at 2:00 P.M. The meeting begins with a short Bible study followed by the business meeting and a short program. At this month's meeting there will be a report on the **Fall LWMS Rally**. The meeting concludes with a social hour and light refreshments. All women of the church are invited to attend.



Grace Circle
Grace Lutheran
Church

Advent Services

Advent Services will be on Wednesdays in December (the 6th, 13th and Dec. 20th) at 4:30 and 6:30 P.M. There will be a meal served between services. Watch for more information about signing up to host one of the meals. May God bless our upcoming Advent Season as we prepare to celebrate His coming to this earth as our Savior.



Have You Started Your Christmas Shopping?

Don't forget about the **Manitowoc Lutheran High School SCRIP Tuition Assistance Program**. You can purchase SCRIP certificates and gift cards from MLHS in advance to pay for your purchases at many local stores. These also make great gifts for that person on your list for whom buying presents seems impossible!

A portion of all SCRIP sales is split between MLHS and either a family with children enrolled at MLHS or it can be designated to go into our Grace Tuition Assistance fund. The Scrip office is now open 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday with additional hours on Thursday evenings from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. If you do not already have an account, contact the MLHS Scrip office and they will help you get set up.

Church Vacuuming Schedule for November

DATE	NAME	PHONE
Nov 4	Mike Remiker	920-901-0768
Nov 11	Greg & Lori Stuebs	920-553-7829
Nov 18	Tod Hauf	920-860-2221
Nov 25	Patty Levendusky	920-782-0383



Member Spotlights

Laverne Mattes

Laverne first became a member of Grace in 1942. Her early childhood years were spent on the family farm near Harpts Lake in northern Manitowoc County. She attended grade school at First German in Manitowoc and graduated from Lincoln HS in 1955.

She and her husband Ken ran several businesses over the years, including a cheese factory in Collins, WI and later a gas station/liquor store in New Holstein.

Laverne had 5 children: Jim – Valders, WI, Lori -- Hayton, WI, Scott -- Virginia, Susie -- Fort Collins, CO, and Jeff—deceased. She is blessed with 19 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Laverne was instrumental and assisted in the founding of Repeat Performance resale store in 2004 which over the years has raised over \$2.5 million for Manitowoc Lutheran High School. At one time she was the day manager of the store, and she still volunteers there 3 days a week.

Hobbies earlier in life included tennis, biking, and fishing at their Shawano Lake cottage. Now, it is reading and a book club, jig saw puzzles, crossword puzzles and Sudoku that occupy her spare time and keep her mind sharp.

Over the years Laverne has served Grace on the altar guild, Grace Circle, funeral committee, JLOG helper, greeter, and is a regular and active participant in the member open forums.



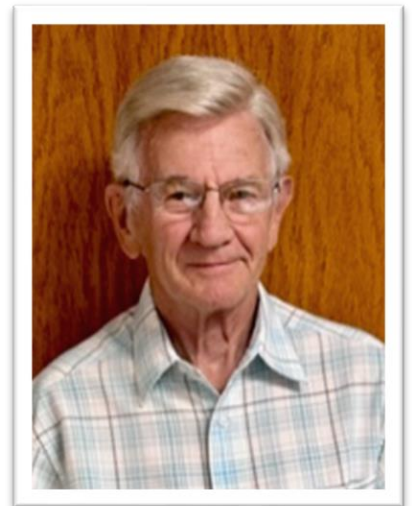
Jack Meisner

Jack has been a long-time member at Grace, becoming a member in 1969. He was raised in Manitowoc and attended grade school at Immanuel and First German. One of his first jobs was as a pinsetter at local bowling alleys. He was in the graduating class from Lincoln high school, class of 1957.

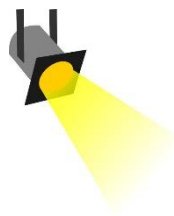
Jack was married in 1958 to his high school sweetheart, Sandy. In 1962 he enlisted in the Army and was assigned to The Presidio of California. He and Sandy lived in San Raphael for 1 1/2 years until he was sent to Korea to finish his enlistment. After the Army, Jack started his career with Wisconsin Fuel and Light, a job he truly enjoyed. They had three children, Mark – Manitowoc, WI, Kathy – Oconomowoc, WI, and Michael – deceased. He and Sandy have 5 grandchildren, including a set of triplets, and 2 great grandchildren.

Jack's interests in earlier years included volleyball, riding his Harley, and spending time at their cottage near Townsend. Currently he enjoys reading, woodworking, and shooting sporting clays. He has been a longtime volunteer at the Repeat Performance resale store where he puts in 3-4 days a week.

Over the many years Jack has been a Grace member, he has served as an usher, communion assistant, and a member of the church council. He also put his woodworking gift to work, building or helping build many things for our church, including cabinets and shelves, the garage, the playhouse for Jesus' Lambs of Grace, and many props for Vacation Bible School.



Member Spotlights



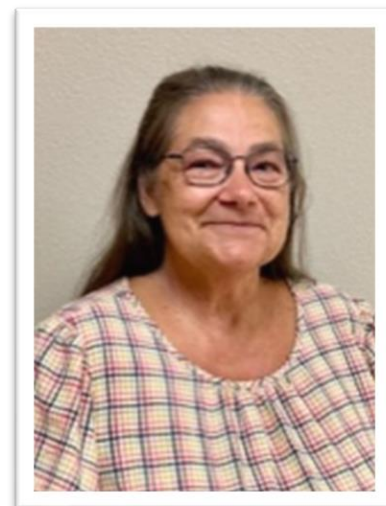
Karolyn Schultz

Karolyn has been a lifetime member of Grace since 1955, being both baptized and confirmed here at Grace. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1973. Now retired, Karolyn had a 42 year career in banking which started at the Manitowoc County Bank, which then was merged into First Wisconsin, and finally became US Bank.

Karolyn was married to Jim Schultz who passed away in 2008. She has two children. Melissa, who lives in Manitowoc, and Matthew, who resides in Neenah. Karolyn also has 3 granddaughters nearby in Manitowoc.

Her hobbies include attending her granddaughters' events, flower gardening, walking, reading, and working on puzzles and crafts.

She enjoys being involved at Grace by baking for potlucks and events and helping with Vacation Bible School. Karolyn is also the flower coordinator for the altar flowers and coordinates the purchase and display of all the beautiful Easter lilies and poinsettias in their respective seasons.



Todd and Patty Levendusky



Todd and Patty became Grace members in April of 2022. Patty grew up on a dairy farm in Sheboygan Falls; Todd grew up near Shoto. They have been married for 32 years. They have no children, but golden retrievers have resided with them over the years. If Patty could get agreement from Todd, they would have more than just one or two of them at a time.

Patty took early retirement as a CNA for over 36 years in Sheboygan County, while Todd has worked for over 35 years as an X-ray technician at Eck Industries.

Todd's interests include trapshooting and coin collecting; Patty enjoys photography, long early morning walks, reading, and plants (At one time she had 70!). They planted 144 marigolds to keep rabbits out of their first time garden this year, but the rabbits hopped over them! They both enjoy riding their white Goldwing motorcycle.

They like travelling: two of their favorite vacations were in Yellowstone and Niagara Falls.

Here at Grace they are busy helping out as part of the transportation team and they helped pick corn for the MLHS federation this fall. Patty serves us as power point operator for church services and is one of our church vacuum crew members. They love our Grace Bible classes and meeting new people, so be sure to introduce yourselves to them if you have yet to do so.



Member Spotlights

Aaron, Kim, and Aftyn Mueller



The Muellers have been members of Grace for 16 years. Aaron grew up in Manitowoc and attended Bethany Lutheran grade school and then MLHS. Kim, who is from Beaver Dam, has 2 sons, Landon (28), who is head of the German department at Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, Parker (22), who works in Two Rivers, and a daughter Ayanna (20), a student at St. Norbert's. Aftyn is Kim and Aaron's 7th grade daughter who attends Bethany. In addition, Kim's father Curt, a retired truck driver, has resided with them for the last 7 years.



Aaron is the sales manager at Maritime Ford; he's been there 11 years. Stop in there to see his Milwaukee Brewers 130+ bobble head collection and/or to buy a vehicle. Aaron is a cofounder of Sabbatical Brewing and works there part time. His stint in the army right out of high school included him playing the tuba in the Army band. Kim is a former nurse who is now a financial advocate at Aurora.

The Mueller family thoroughly enjoys volleyball. Aaron helped coach volleyball at MLHS and for the past two years has coached at Bethany. He plays twice a week year-round, while Kim plays once a week. Aaron has played in men's national tournaments in Dallas, Orlando, and soon in Las Vegas. Aftyn plays for Bethany and for the local Lakeshore Storm volleyball club team.

The Muellers are "island people" who have vacationed in Cabo, Antigua, Aruba, and in Mexico. They annually vacation with their extended family in Traverse City, MI.

You can see Aaron frequently ushering at Grace; recently he volunteered to serve as the usher scheduler. He enjoys singing in choirs when he has the chance. Kim enjoys food preparation and helps with that part of our church picnic. Aaron has helped sponsor and/or organize numerous local fundraising events, including the last MLHS Lancer golf outing.

The Muellers enjoy the family atmosphere and the size of Grace. See Aaron if you want to volunteer to usher here at Grace Church.



Psalm 122:1 says,
I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Have you been missing worship? We'd love to see you back! Join us Sunday mornings or Monday evenings!

News From Our High School – Manitowoc Lutheran

Pastor Jason Hacker has accepted the call to serve as President of Manitowoc Lutheran High School! We are thankful that the Lord of the church has led Pastor Hacker to this decision. We welcome Pastor Hacker and his family to the Lancer Family!

Veteran's Breakfast: All active and retired military and their spouses are invited to breakfast at MLHS on Wednesday, November 8th at 8:30 A.M. This will be followed by a Veteran's Worship Service at 10:00 A.M.

School Play: *Rip Van Winkle & the Legend of Sleepy Hollow* will be performed by the drama club at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, November 10th and Saturday, November 11th. There will be a Sunday performance at 2:00 P.M. on November 12th. Come and enjoy the play!



Coming Up at MLHS: Thursday, December 21st is the MLHS Christmas Concert at the Capitol Civic Centre - 4:30 and 7:30 P.M.

NAME	BD	NAME	BD
Mandy Raasch	11/1	Robin Walters	11/18
Melissa Pfister	11/2	Kendal Peitersen	11/19
Louise Stuebs	11/2	Mike Remiker	11/19
Terry Johnson	11/3	Henry-Joseph Sasse	11/19
Kathy Graupner	11/4	Joanne Pritzl	11/20
Joseph Schultz	11/4	Jodie Rezba	11/20
Mike Haese	11/6	Krystal Gossen	11/25
Kathleen Haupt	11/7	Jennifer Kieselhorst	11/25
William Schleis	11/7	Janelle Zimmermann	11/25
Bob Denk	11/12	Kaden Peitersen	11/26
David Hammel	11/13	Steven Riske	11/26
Ron Likas	11/13	Roger Smith	11/26
David Zipperer	11/13	Kevin Krueger	11/27
Hailey Hebert	11/15	Vivian Meerdink	11/28
Peg Janke	11/15	Kevin Hartlaub	11/29
Allen Leist	11/15	Teresa Egerer	11/30
Jerry Krueger	11/16	Dave Kappelman	11/30
Bria Berry	11/18		



November Usher Schedule



DATE	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS	GREETERS
Nov 5 – Early	Steve Janke (262) 352-8742	Jack Meisner (323-7779)	Steve & Peg Janke
Nov 5 – Late	Tod Hauf (860-2221)	Ken Peroutka (973-6580)	Laverne Mattes
Nov 6 – Mon		Dave Kappelman (370-3759)	Mary Hassemer
Nov 12 – Early		Kevin & Josh Sielaff (619-3014)	Tammy Brunner
Nov 12 – Late		Aaron Mueller	Kim Mueller
Nov 13 – Mon		Dennis & Shawn Egerer (946-3209)	Teresa/Isaac Egerer
Nov 19 – Early	Bruce Wigand (323-3703)	Bruce Matthias (901-4312)	Lorna Matthias
Nov 19 - Late	Troy Stubbe (362-8008)	Aaron Mueller (242-6286)	Stacy Stubbe
Nov 20 - Mon		Dave Bergquist (905-4945)	
Nov 22 – Wed 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve		Steve Janke (262-352-8742)	Peg Janke
Nov 23 – Thu 9:30 Thanksgiving Day		Jack Meisner (323-7779) Greg & Sam Kolar (860-4121)	Shannon P. & Heidi M.
Nov 26 – Early		Jerry Krueger (901-1291)	Wendy Krueger
Nov 26 - Late		Troy Stubbe (362-8008)	Stacy Stubbe
Nov 27 - Mon		Kent Langman	Donna Langman

Please make every effort to be at the service you are listed for above. See side box for instructions if you are not able to serve when scheduled as well as other miscellaneous information.

Thank you!

Thank you again for your willingness to be of service to the Lord here at Grace.

If you are unable to usher when you are scheduled, please try to find a replacement so all positions are filled.

Please do this as soon as possible so that those present on Sunday morning and Monday evening do not have to look for you or need to “recruit” someone else at the last minute.

Please try to be at church at least 25 minutes prior to the start of that service.

EXTRA NOTE FOR THE USHERS:
Watch for visitors who come in through the office/school entrance and may not be seen by the greeters. Please make every effort to personally welcome. **We want to make sure we are welcoming all people entering God’s House!**

Did You Know? Fun Facts About Grace Lutheran Church...

- We currently have a membership of 425 souls and 367 communicants.
- The Bible Study on the book of Daniel is averaging almost forty in attendance per week! Join us!
- Our church is now using safe, efficient and attractive electric candles.
- A very in-depth study (with company quotes) is underway regarding building security.
- This March, watch for major construction on Rapids Road – right in front of church!
- We will have three Grace Lutheran Confirmants being Confirmed in Spring.
- Our Sunday School is enjoying the use of a brand new curriculum called “Dig In.”
- Member Ministry Coordinator Heidi Malley and her Core Team continue regular meetings.
- We will be enjoying Advent suppers once again this December. Join us for worship and supper!
- Jesus loves and blesses Grace Lutheran every single day. That’s the greatest fact of all!



Contact Information:

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Worship Elder Tom Meineke

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tdmeineke@sbcglobal.net

Property Elder Mike Remiker

(920)-901-0768

remy.2021.201@gmail.com

Outreach Elder Bruce Bitter

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brucebitter57@gmail.com

Member Care Elder Derrick Gossen

(920)-619-1750

Derrick.gossen@fmglobal.com

Vacancy Pastor David Laabs

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Staff Minister / Interim Finance Elder Bob Fink

(920)-860-3604

rlf54220@yahoo.com

Jesus' Lambs of Grace Director Peg Janke

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Jesuslambsgrace@gmail.com

Member Ministry Coordinator Heidi Malley

(920)-682-7377

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Office Administrator Lisa Miller

(920)-682-7377

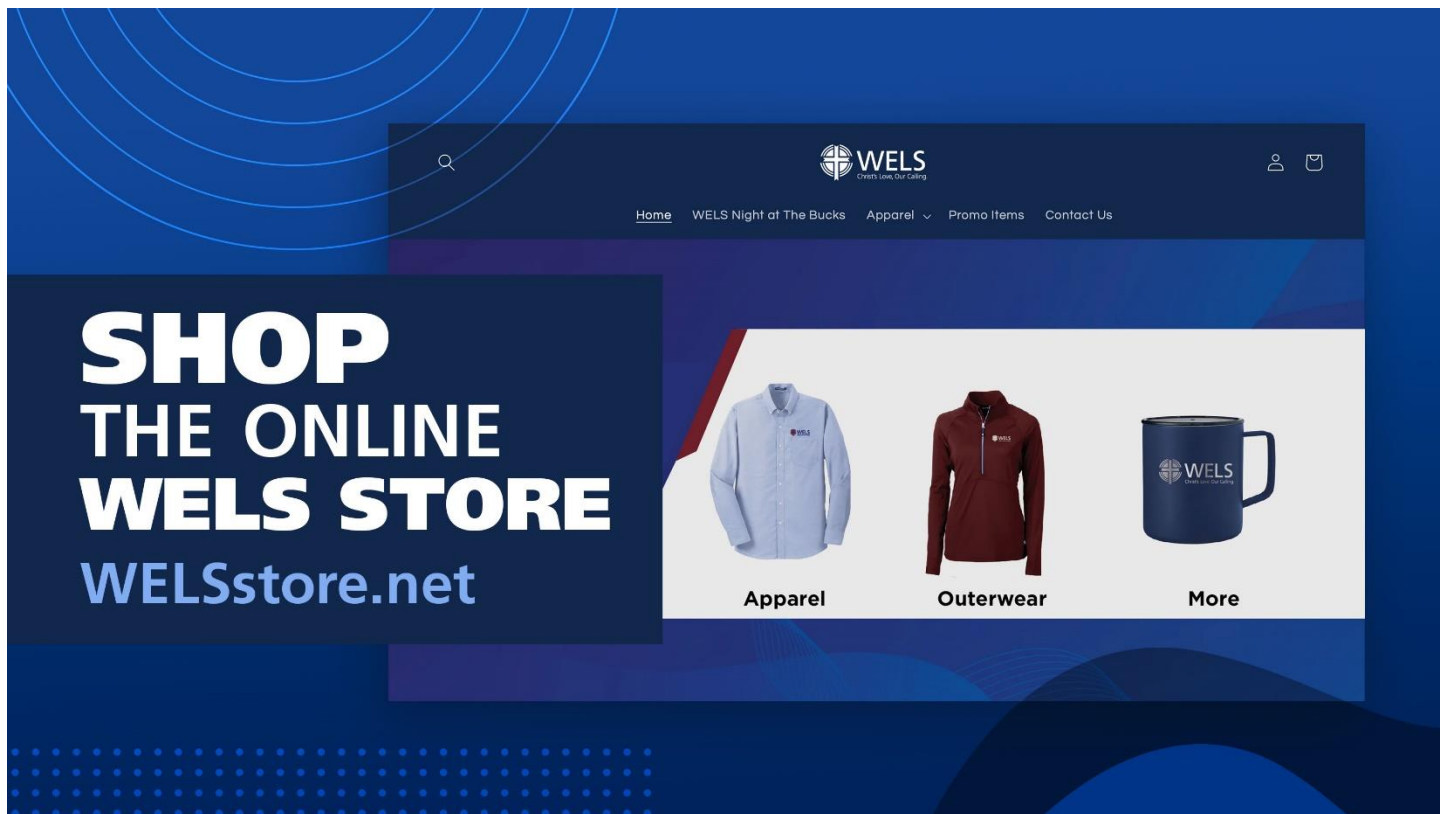
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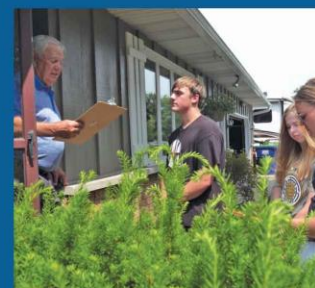
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My gift to WELS Home Missions

The growing community of Kronenwetter, Wis., is home to Northland Lutheran High School, which will house a new mission start and provide mission-minded staff and students to support the outreach effort.



Give online.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit wels.net/support.