

## January 2024 Newsletter



### Grace and peace are yours through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear Family of God at Grace,

Here we are at the beginning of another New Year. It is exciting and a bit frightening. What will 2024 hold for you individually and for us as a congregation?

As you may know, Chris Mogelvang, a member and one of our Elders, is finishing his classes at Concordia Wisconsin. He has been accepted at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN and will start this summer studying Greek, so he and his family will be leaving us in late Spring.

Let me first say a big thank you to Chris, Kami, and the kids who have always been involved in activities at Grace. Kami was a Director of Christian Education (DCE) Intern in 2005-2006. She then was Called as our DCE in August of 2007. Kami has grown up with us and is one of our Synod's best DCEs. She has worked very hard with our youth and has built relationships with them that will last a lifetime. We give thanks for her faithful service here at Grace!

Where do we go from here as a congregation? First, we start with prayer. Pray for the following:

- for Chris, Kami, Corban, GraceAnn, and Lena as they begin this new chapter in their lives
- for our church as we heal from this change
- for the future of Grace Lutheran as we determine what that looks like for us
- for wisdom regarding what new staff positions we need to create
- for God's leading to find individuals for those positions.

We have a lot to pray for. Bringing all these requests and petitions before the Lord is where we'll start, and then what?

Let me give you a few scenarios for the future of Grace. These are some of the options we have:

- We could request a Vicar, who is a student pastor.
- We could request a Director of Christian Education (DCE) intern.
- We could request a Director of Christian Outreach (DCO) intern.
- We could request a Deaconess intern, or
- We could request a Director of Family Life Ministries (DFLM) intern. You can learn more about these positions on the LCMS website (LCMS.org).

Grace is a wonderful place to learn and grow. Vicars or interns give us the opportunity to test the waters, so to speak.

The questions we need to answer are:

- What are we looking for?
- How will they serve at Grace?
- Who will they serve at Grace?

Remember, these are students.

- A Vicar can serve many of the same roles as a Pastor, but they are Pastors in training.
- A Deaconess can serve the youth and the adults, depending on the Deaconess.
- A DCE may work with youth, but they also supervise the Christian Education of the congregation.
- A DCO is all about outreach into the community.
- A DFLM works with families.

- We need to pray about and determine what we need and want in the staff member(s) we are looking for.

We could also choose to issue a Divine Call to a Pastor, DCE, DCO, Deaconess, or DFLM, directly from Seminary, the Concordia University system, or from the field. There are a lot of vacancies throughout our Synod and the number of churches without Pastors continues to grow. Calling from the Seminary or the field may be difficult and we might have to wait to get the person we want.

I also know that you are concerned about me. When will Pastor Lingsch retire? I never said I was going to retire. I simply said that in three years I'll be 60 and will be eligible to collect a military pension. I never said I was leaving or retiring in 3 years. I'm trying to plan for the future of Grace and for me and my family. Things change. Grace has had the same staff together for as long as I've been here. This doesn't happen very often in churches. We have been blessed. Julie, our Preschool

Director has been here for 25+ years, Jonathan, Director of Parish Music, has been here for 20+ years, Kami, 17 years, and I have been here for 15 years!

Ultimately, this is all in the Lord's hands. He will work through us and our committees to bring the right person(s) to be part of the Grace family. I am explaining all this because the unknown is always unsettling. What will happen in 2024 at Grace Naples? I do not know. What I **DO** know is that we are a healthy, vibrant, and stable congregation and the Lord has us in His hands!

If you have questions or concerns, talk to me, an Elder, or a member of the Church Council. You do have a voice in this congregation; we want to hear from you.

God bless us all in the year of our Lord 2024.

In His Service,  
Pastor Lingsch



*The staff at Grace Lutheran Church wishes to thank everyone for their cards and the generous gifts. God's blessings to all you.*

### Youth Christmas Party!

We had a wonderful time at our annual youth Christmas Party! The youth had a white elephant gift exchange, enjoyed a Christmas devotion, hot chocolate and time together. I am so blessed to lead these youth and help them build relationships with each other centered on their faith. Merry Christmas!  
~DCE Kami Jo Mogelvang



Thank you to everyone who supported the youth fundraiser and bought raffle tickets for the beautiful Christmas quilt. The winning ticket was Pastor Lingsch. A very special thank you to Claudia Tracy for making the quilt and donating it to Grace Youth for the Fundraiser. We raised over \$300 for our youth program. What a blessing, thank you!  
 CE Kami Jo Mogelvang



*Women of Grace!*  
 Calendar dates for 2024

Jan 13 - Membership meeting 10:00am  
 Feb 24 - (tentative) Rummage sale  
 March - Spring Rally

March 10 - LWML Sunday  
 March 31 - Easter Sunday  
 April 20 - Membership Meeting 10:00am

May 7 or 11 - Spring Luncheon



**Come join the Knit / Crochet group.**  
**Starting January 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**10:00am in Fellowship Hall**

*Grace Lutheran Preschool*  
*Wish List 2023-2024*

- |          |                         |
|----------|-------------------------|
| JANUARY  | Kid-sized paint brushes |
| FEBRUARY | Jiggle (Googly) Eyes    |
| MARCH    | Pompoms of all sizes    |
| APRIL    | Sidewalk Chalk          |
| MAY      | Buttons                 |

**Altar Flower Donations**

- Would you like to remember your birthday or anniversary with a special offering to God?
- Would you like to remember someone special in your life who is with the Lord?
- Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary with a special offering of flowers?

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for you to claim the date for your special occasion. Cost of arrangements is \$45.00.



# Worship With Us

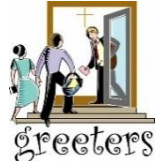
Saturday Evening services return January 6 and will continue thru March 23, 2024

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL WORSHIP SERVICES!



There are multiple opportunities for you to volunteer for weekend services at Grace. We need Ushers, Lectors, Altar Guild Members, Greeters, Crucifers and Acolytes, Sound Board Operators, and people to prepare for Coffee Hour.

Click the QR Code or take a picture of it to go to the website.



## Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

We are always looking for people to set up or cleanup Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you want more information, please email Lori at lorilingsch@yahoo.com



## WEEKLY EVENTS



**Cool Moms Bible Study--Tuesdays**  
9:00am  
Contact Kami Jo

**Adult Bible Study-- Wednesdays**  
10:30am Fellowship Hall

**Monthly Book Club—1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday**  
4:00pm Discussion of "Lies about Human Nature & the Truth That Sets Us Free", by Pastor Christopher S. Esget  
Contact DCS Linda Nobili

**Women's Bible Study--Thursdays**  
10:00am Contact Kami Jo

**Wednesday Dinner**  
5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday Prayer Service**  
6:30pm

**Men of Grace--Tuesdays**  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
6:30pm

**Grief Share**  
Thursdays, 1:00pm

**Quilters--Tuesday's, 10:00am**  
Fellowship Hall

**Knit / Crochet Group --Tuesdays,**  
10:00am  
Fellowship Hall



**Choristers**  
Wednesday, 4:15pm



**Grace Chorale**  
Wednesday,  
7:00pm



**Grace AMR Ringers**  
Thursday, 6:00pm



## Missionary of the Month

Rev. Dr. David and Jennifer Preus

Serving the Lord in Romania

The Rev. Dr. David and Jennifer Preus serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Eurasia, based in Romania. In this role, David serves as a professor with the Livonian Lutheran Project, where he provides theological education to future pastors of the Eurasia region.

He also serves as an assistant pastor, recruiter and mentor to new and upcoming pastors in the lower Balkan and Mediterranean subregion. In this capacity, David helps to establish a network of communication and strengthen the brotherhood among pastors of the region, including in Brasov and Bucharest, Romania; Sofia, Bulgari; Salonica (Thessaloniki), Greece; Padua and Rome, Italy; Spain; and Portugal.

David was born in Fort Wayne, Ind. He earned a bachelor's degree from Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minn. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Before taking a call to the mission field, David served as a pastor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Billings, Mont. (2011–2015).

Jennifer was born in Lake Forest, Ill. She earned a bachelor's degree from Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minn., as well. In addition, she received a master's degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato. David and Jennifer have eight beautiful children — Hans, Rebekah, Rolf, Lena, Søren, Leif, Andreas and Lars — who are with them on the mission field.

### Prayers

Pray for the Preus family as they serve in Eurasia. Pray also for the church in Romania and the pastors across Eurasia. Ask God to give His wisdom to the LCMS missionary team in this region as they seek to share the Gospel with and minister to the local people. Ask God to guide them as they network and centralize mission efforts across the region. Pray that the hearts of people here in the United States would be moved to pray for and financially support the Preuses so they can be a part of this mission work. Give thanks to God that the Preus family is serving His children in this part of the world.

#### Birthdays

- David - Feb. 4
- Jennifer - July 22
- Hans - Nov. 6
- Rebekah - Sept. 30
- Rolf - Dec. 17
- Lena - Aug. 13
- Søren - July 1
- Leif - March 7
- Andreas - July 25
- Lars - Feb. 14

Wedding Anniversary: Sept. 27

Home District: Montana

# Tune in for good Lutheran music and Bible teaching.



**KFUO Radio**, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at **kfu.org** and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)

14 Cynthia Garrison  
14 SueAnn Zornes  
15 Sharon Walther  
15 Juliana Ziemer  
18 Erika Daus  
18 Chloe Strackbein  
19 Nico Sanchez  
22 Hector Sanchez  
23 Vance O'Keefe



25 Barb Kolmorgen  
26 Bonnie Heidel  
28 Sharon Brown  
28 Joan Singletary  
29 Stephanie Greul  
29 Chuck Toman  
30 Marc Sanchez  
31 Jan Delise



7 Chris & Helen Leibfried  
16 Ben & Carol Borchelt  
24 Gene & Rose Marie Klebingot

## *Mark These Dates on Your Calendar!*

**Jan 7** Special Voters Meeting at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

**Jan 4 - April 25** Grief Share Classes, Thursdays, 1:00pm

**Jan 6 - March 23** Saturday Night Services at 4:00 pm

**Jan 20** Habitat 8:00-12:00 pm