



GREET, GATHER,
GROW AND GO
IN GOD'S GRACE

PEACE + GRUE

God's Country News

AN ELCA PARISH



TO BECOME THE
VOICE AND
HANDS OF JESUS



FEBRUARY 2024



Inside this issue:

Pastoral from the Pastor	2
PEACE Sunday school News	3
Readings for February	3
BIRTHDAYS-February	4
PEACE WELCA News	5
PEACE Annual Minutes	6
Peace Council Members	7
Peace Treasurer budget	8
Peace Contribution Graph	9
Grue Annual Minutes	10&11
Grue Council Minutes	12
Grue Council Members	13



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday Services will be held at each church on
February 14, 2024: Grue at 6:15pm
Peace at 12noon and
Presbyterian Church at 7:30pm with
imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.



Weekly services will be held at 7:00pm each Wednesday
evening, alternating churches, with light supper
served beginning at 5:30pm.

February 21: Grue Church

February 28: OSTML

March 6: Peace Church

March 13: First Presbyterian Church

March 20: Grue Church

Order subject to change.

A soup luncheon and abbreviated service will be
held at noon each week at Peace.

All are welcome at either service.

Contact Ione Quam if you would like to volunteer.

218-747-2838



Pastoral from the Pastor

February 2024

Dear friends in Christ at Peace and Grue,

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)

I read that in early 2022, a new simulation of the universe’s origins using massive computing power allowed scientists to explore what might have happened in the earliest days of the universe’s creation. In the early days, the first 150 million years or so, they found light could not travel very far at all. Physicist Aaron Smith explains, “It’s a bit like water in ice cube trays; when you put it in the freezer, it does take time, but after a while, it starts to freeze on the edges and then slowly creeps in. This was the same situation in the early universe — it was a dark cosmos that became bright as light began to emerge from the first galaxies.”

Understanding God is a bit like that light at the cosmic dawn. Comprehension is not instantaneous. Even when the revelation of God descends, it takes humans time to understand and respond, as can be seen in the story of the Transfiguration. While there are small differences that reflect Matthew, Mark, and Luke’s particular interests and literary styles, the main thrust of the story is that: Jesus takes Peter, John, and James up a high mountain and is transfigured before them. Moses and Elijah show up, and a voice from above instructs the disciples that Jesus is God’s son and commands the hearers to listen to him.

Even when standing face-to-face with the glory of the Divine, they simply do not comprehend what is happening around them. There is a lack of recognition of what one ought to do. Not much has changed. That one is confused as a 21st-century hearer, highlights the human confusion that comes before understanding, which is why Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday of Epiphany, is followed by Ash Wednesday.

By wearing ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are proclaiming that, in the grand scheme of things, our lives are inconceivably short - nothing but an infinitesimally small blip on the giant screen of history - that all of our anxieties and fears, all of our great accomplishments and impressive attainments are literally just a handful of dust - for we ourselves are nothing but dust, and to dust shall we return.

At the same time the ashes are not thrown indiscriminately onto our foreheads, but are in the form of the cross. The shape of God’s answer to our lack of recognition of what one ought to do. The shape of Jesus’ self-sacrifice in which he gave himself, not to be our accuser, not to save us from his wrath, but to save us from ourselves. Through Jesus, through his life and teaching, and most of all through his suffering and death, God who is eternally older than all of history, who is infinitely beyond the immensity of the universe, is in the world, searching for each of us like lost sheep, actively seeking us out, taking us into his arms and bringing us home. That is how much you matter. That is how important you are. As slow as we might be to comprehend the divine light, we can trust that even in the depths of sin and the confusion that comes before understanding we are completely known and loved by our Heavenly Father.

Hope you will join us this Lenten season,

Pastor Dan



**PEACE CHURCH
ACOLYTE SCHEDULE 2024**

February

- 4 Traeton Nelson / Darian Holte
- 11 Coffee Cup Sunday
- 14 (Ash Wednesday)
- 18 Finn Thompson/Joey Johnson
- 25 AJ Olson / Beckett Johnson

Peace - FEBRUARY - Sunday School at 10:15	
4	10:15 a.m.
11	10:15 a.m.
18	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - President's Day weekend
25	10:15 a.m.

Grue - FEBRUARY - Sunday School at 9:30	
4	9:30a.m.
11	9:30a.m.
18	9:30a.m.
25	9:30a.m.

READING FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
First Reading Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Gospel Mark 1:29-39	First Reading 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm Psalm 50:1-6 Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Gospel Mark 9:2-9	First Reading Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm Psalm 25:1-10 Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22 Gospel Mark 1:9-15	First Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm Psalm 22:23-31 Second Reading Romans 4:13-25 Gospel Mark 8:31-38

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- February 1st
Cindy Vorland
- February 2nd
Ray Dahlen
Carol Koefod
Janet Novak
Dallas Sorenson
- February 4th
Megan Olson
Danza Johnrsrud
Roberta Kalvik
- February 5th
Henry Duenow
- February 7th
Connor Samuelson
- February 8th
Katie Merrick
Jackson Merrick
- February 9th
Anthony Ness
Curtis Runningen
Kris Roley
Easton Nelson
- February 10th
Charles Schultz
- February 12th
Bryce Johnson
Wes Evavold
- February 16th
John Lindemeyer
Levi Rossum
Brooklyn Wagner
- February 17th
Carol Dahlen
Victoria Stierlen

**God's Country News Articles are DUE
by the 20th of each MONTH**



- February 18th
Kevin Fick
- February 19th
Brenda Lillemon
Bentley Olson
- February 20th
Aanika Anderson
- February 21st
Ardis Alvstad
- February 22nd
Jessica Knutson
- February 23rd
James Martinson
- February 26th
Noah Anderson
Jason Dahlen
Wendy Walvante
- February 27th
Joshua Evavold
- February 28th
Mary Johnsrud

*If I don't have your
birth date or if I have it
listed incorrectly please
e-mail or call me -
peace@prtel.com /
747-2273
Melissa R*

"IN *Happy*
MOMENTS,
PRAISE GOD.
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,
SEEK *God.*
IN QUIET
MOMENTS,
trust GOD.
IN EVERY MOMENT,
THANK *God.*"

Peace Bible Study
February 20th 9:30 A.M.
@ Peace

GRUE Bible Study
February 20th 1:30 P.M.
@ GRUE

PEACE WELCA NEWS



Thank you to the Dahlen family for graciously taking care of all the volunteer positions to enhance our Sunday mornings of worship and fellowship. Carmen and Duane are doing February and they have appreciated everyone that has been willing to help.

Thank you to Janet, Cindy, Terry, Duane, and Mary Ann for helping with the Darlene Langlie funeral. Thank you to Carmen and Denise and Janet for baking bars.

Janet and I have been reviewing how much the Thrivent Grants help us each year and would like to share it with you. There were 3 events last year, Teddy Roosevelt Night, the Annual Bazaar and our Advent Program where we had 3 grants for each event; 1 for advertising, 1 for decorating and 1 for food expense. This is a total of \$750 for each event that Welca did not cover all the expenses and at the end of the year enabled us to share \$2500 with Peace Church to help cover our financial year end short-fall. We used 7 or 8 grants for quilting expenses; without the financial help the grants give us, we would be unable to do the number of mission quilts that we do. We thank everyone that applies for and shares their grant funds. These are only the grants we are aware of. Other members use grants for community projects enhancing our community.

Along those same lines, those of you that are Thrivent members, remember this is the time of the year when we can direct our Choice Dollars to charities of your choice.

WELCA's big project this Spring is hosting the Conference & WELCA Gathering. This gathering includes approximately 25 churches and the date is Saturday morning, April 27. Pastor Maddie from Luther Crest will join us to do the morning devotion and administer communion. Patty Wetterling from St. Joseph is coming to share how her faith guided her through the decades of finding closure to Jacob's disappearance. Our theme for the morning is Faith Like a Mustard Seed. We will be wanting to do some Spring cleaning prior to this event.

God's Blessings to All

Val Fick
WELCA Co-President



Peace Annual Meeting

Peace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting-January 14, 2024

Meeting called to order by Duane Spielman-President

Pastor Dan provided opening devotions

No additions to the agenda

Donna Grover-outgoing church president gave some parting remarks.

Annual meeting minutes from 2023 were presented. M, S, C to approve as written.

Pastor Dan gave his yearly report and wanted to specifically thank the many volunteers that assist the church with various responsibilities. Other Committee reports can be viewed in the provided annual reports. No further questions.

Nominating Committee for next year: Kristyn Fick and Donna Grover. Church Council will be represented by Brenda Johnson and Linda Bahnson.

Delegates for Luther Crest: Val Fick

NW MN Synod: No nominations from the floor. Council will discuss at the next meeting on how to fill those spots.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Tim Cunningham, Peace Treasurer presented on the 2024 Parish and Peace budget. Parish Budget is right on track. Peace Church Council voted previously to remove all line items for missions due to a budget shortfall. After some discussion, the 2024 budget was approved as written.

With no other agenda items, a motion was made to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Dahlen

Church Council Secretary

2024 PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Duane Spielman
Vice President: _____

Secretary: Jody Dahlen
Treasurer: Tim Cunningham

Brenda Johnson 1st term ends 12-31-2027
 Wayne Vorland 1st term ends 12-31-2024
 Jody Dahlen 1st term ends 12-31-2024

Gene Jensen 2nd term ends 12-31-2024
 Linda Bahnson 1st term ends 12-31-2027
 Duane Spielman 2nd term ends 12-31-2025

*Council representatives

Nominating Committee

1. Duane Spielman*
2. Donna Grover
3. Kristyn Fick
4. Tim Cunningham

Property & Management

1. Duane Spielman*
2. Kristyn Fick
3. Frank Novak

Cemetery

Treasurer Dee Holte
Sexton Craig Koefod
Head Sexton Jeremy Anderson
 Gene Jensen*

Stewardship (Inactive, need chair)

- 1.
2. Wayne Vorland*
3. Jeff Merrick

Peace Personnel

Wayne Vorland*
 Gene Jensen*

Peace Budget Committee

Tim Cunningham
 Gene Jensen*

Education Committee

1. Brenda Johnson*
2. Carmen Odegaard
3. Sandy Cunningham
4. Heidi Balgaard
5. Linda Bahnson*
6. Denise Juven
7. Char Woldahl*
8. Sharon Hermanson*
9. Darlane Miller*

Parish Budget Committee

Peace Treasurer-Tim Cunningham
 Duane Spielman *-*Peace*
Grue Treasurer – June Bjornson
 Randy Koefod *-*Grue*

Christian Growth

1. Tim Cunningham -**chair**
2. Teresa Magnuson
3. Val Fick
4. Leslie Anderson
5. Jody Dahlen*

Confirmation Coordinator

1. Jackie Anderson
2. Melissa Runningen - Co

Parish Personnel Committee

(VP and 1 council member)
 1. _____ *- *VP Peace*
 2. Duane Spielman*-*Peace*
 3. Darlane Miller *- *VP Grue*
 4. Randy Koefod *- *Grue*

Audio Visual Maintenance

1. Jackie Anderson
2. Kenneth Spielman
- 3.

Luther Crest Delegates

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Worship Committee

1. Pastor Dan Hermanson
2. Carol Koefod
3. Teresa Ohren
4. Brenda Risbrudt
5. Candy Catoe
6. Mary Johnsrud
7. Missy Evavold
8. Cindy Vorland

Audit Committee

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Delegates-NW Synod

- 1.
- 2.

Great Synod Get Together

- 1.
- 2.

Long Range Planning

2023 Peace Treasurer's Report

Peace Financials

The 2023 Budget Comparison, which compares the 2023 actuals to the budget shows 2023 revenues are down \$30,574 from budget due to decreased offerings. This loss was offset partially by unbudgeted Thrivent member grants, a substantial donation from WELCA and expenses coming in at \$9,500 less than budget resulting in a net loss of \$15,455 as noted above. \$5,675 of the savings came from reducing or eliminating our mission support to several organizations.

The 2024 budget is decreasing by \$17,253. This is primarily due to eliminating live-streaming (\$1,200), eliminating all mission support (\$9,000) and decreasing the Parish budget (\$7,728). Please note that a significant increase in expenses was avoided due to the efforts of Chris Roley who was able to keep our insurance costs stable by finding new carriers for the coming year.

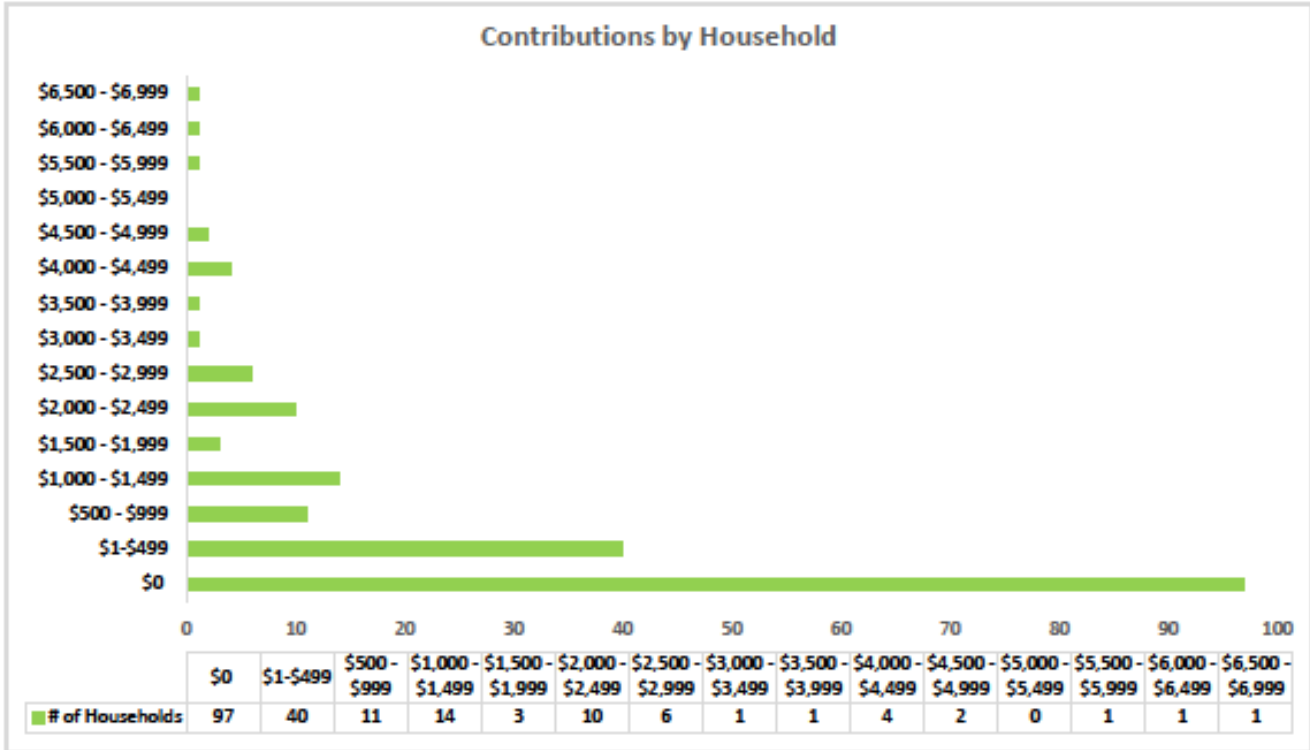
Peace Lutheran Church

Annual Budget Comparison for General Fund

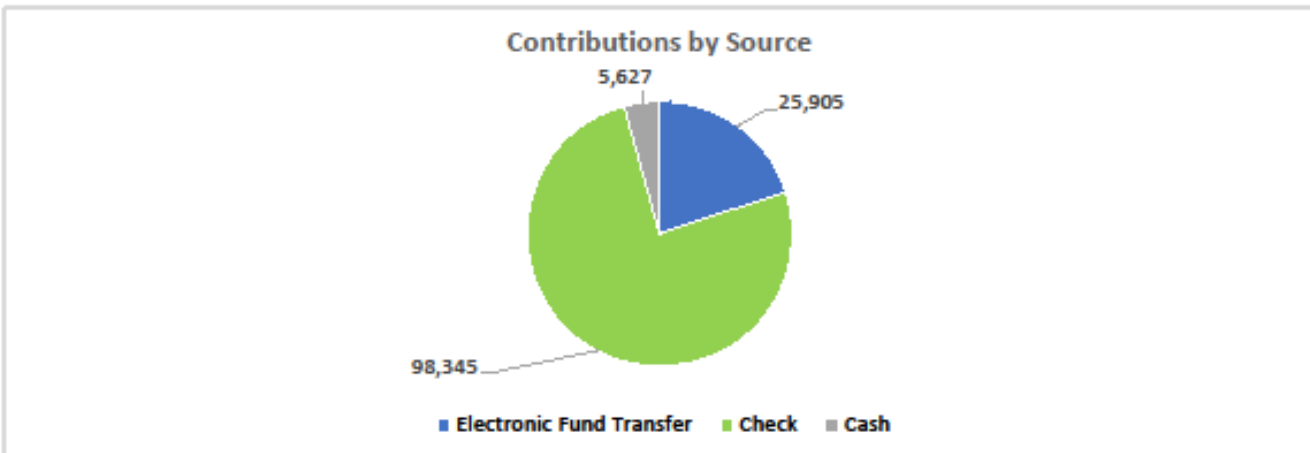
	2024	2023
Revenues		
General Offerings	144,000.00	161,215.00
Total Revenues	144,000.00	161,215.00
Expenditures		
Education Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00
Live Stream	0.00	1,200.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,239.00	2,139.00
Mission Support	0.00	9,025.00
Parish Expenses	111,816.00	119,544.00
Property Maintenance	11,500.00	13,000.00
Staff Salaries	6,507.00	6,507.00
Utilities	12,900.00	11,300.00
Total Expenditures	146,462.00	164,215.00
Other Revenues		
Miscellaneous Income	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Other Revenues	3,000.00	3,000.00

Peace Lutheran Church Budget Comparison w/Variance

Account	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues			
General Offerings	130,641.35	161,215.00	-30,573.65
Misc. Revenue	5,157.00	0.00	5,157.00
Total Revenues	135,798.35	161,215.00	-25,416.65
Expenditures			
Designated Fund Expense	504.00	0.00	504.00
Education Expense	349.94	1,500.00	-1,150.06
Live Stream	1,089.00	1,200.00	-111.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,652.32	2,139.00	-486.68
Mission Support	3,350.00	9,025.00	-5,675.00
Parish Expenses	119,544.00	119,544.00	0.00
Property Maintenance	10,846.56	13,000.00	-2,153.44
Staff Salaries	5,835.74	6,507.00	-671.26
Utilities	11,480.09	11,300.00	180.09
Total Expenditures	154,651.65	164,215.00	-9,563.35
Summary			
Total Revenues	135,798.35	161,215.00	-25,416.65
Total Expenditures	154,651.65	164,215.00	-9,563.35
Total Other Revenues	3,415.13	3,000.00	415.13
Balance	-15,438.17	0.00	-15,438.17



97 of the 192 households made no contributions in 2023



Grue Annual Meeting

Grue Annual Meeting January 21st, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President Denise Juven following the church service with a quorum present and called for a recess until after the potluck meal.

Denise called the meeting back into session.

Pastor Dan lead us in prayers.

The President called for any additions to the agenda. No new additions

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dan express his appreciation to all volunteer's that give of their time. It is truly a faithful gift. He encouraged everyone to partake in the life of the church.

Secretary's Report was read for 2023. A motion was made to accept the report. M/S/C

Finance Report- the members where given time to review the treasurers report and discuss any questions or concerns. M/S/C

The 2024 budget was reviewed and approved. M/S/C

The floor was open for nominations to fill two council openings. Nominations were made for Sonia Heibel and Bob Torgrimson. Hearing no other nominations, a motion was made to cease nominations and another motion was entertained to cast a unanimous ballot. M/S/C

A nomination was made to fill the Treasurer position. Melissa Runningen has asked to resign from the position after being hired as our Parish Manager. June Bjornson accepted the position of treasurer. This left a council position open, so Char Woldahl volunteered to fill the vacancy. M/S/C

Volunteers for the Synod assembly will be Darlane Miller and June Bjornson.

Volunteers for the Annual Meeting of Luther Crest will be Sonia Heibel, Alyssa Evavold, and Sharon Hermanson.

Audit Committee for 2024 - Darlane Miller and Denise Juven.

Nominating Committee for 2024 - Scott Juven and Randy Heibel. From council -Darlane Miller and Sharon Hermanson.

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business:

Denise discussed the use of the church building by the University of Morris. Denise and Melissa did a walk thru tour with 2 staff members from the University. There were rates discussed about the usage and agreed upon. The University has land east of Grue and students are brought out there for classes.

It was discovered that there was a crack in the well head with wires exposed. A well company was contacted. They fixed the issue and it was inspected and re-tested on November 6th. It was approved to be safe.

Marquee Update- Randy Koefod & Randy Heibel are working on some new designs. They will present them to the congregation to view and decide on a new sign.

Usher Contact will be shared by Les Evavold, Scott Juven and Greg Lillemon.

Darlane Miller handed out the Harvest Meal expenses report. We are so grateful to the donations made by local business to help with costs. We have decided to host another Harvest meal on Saturday, November 23rd. Committee members: Bea Runningen, Darlane Miller, & Scott Juven.

Fundraisers- nothing decided at this time.

National Youth Gathering- a motion was made for the congregation to give a check in the amount of \$350.00 to help cover the cost of housing for Darlane, Fynn & Trinity Miller. Darlane and the girls have worked very hard at raising money this last year to help cover the cost of the Gathering. M/S/C

150th year Celebration committee- Bea Runningen, Darlane Miller, Kathy Evavold, Melissa Runningen, and Greg Lillemon.

Denise thanked the council that worked beside her for the last 6 years.

The congregation gratefully thanks Denise for her service and time.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. [M/S/C](#)

The Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hermanson, Council Secretary

Grue Council Meeting January 21st, 2024

In attendance: Darlane Miller, Sonia Heibel, Gwen Lillemon, Char Woldahl, Melissa Runningen, June Bjornson, Pastor Dan and Sharon Hermanson.

Vice President Darlane Miller called the meeting to order.

The council contacted council member Randy Koefod to accept the council president position. Randy accepted the position.

Council is as follows-

President: Randy Koefod

V. President: Darlane Miller

Secretary: Sharon Hermanson

Members: Gwen Lillemon, Char Woldahl, Bob Torgrimson & Sonia Heibel

Grue Treasurer: June Bjornson

Annual cleaning for church will be held on August 24th ahead of the 150th year celebration. A list will be posted of areas to be cleaned.

150th year Celebration- a date has been set for Sunday, September 22nd. More details to follow.

Next council meeting- Parish council meeting February 7th @ 7:00pm. Peace will be hosting the meeting.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hermanson, Council Secretary

A New Year is God's Gift. ENJOY the Faithful Blessings he so delights in Giving.

2024 Grue Lutheran Church Council

President: Randy Koefod
Secretary: Sharon Hermanson

Vice President: Darlane Miller
Treasurer: June Bjornson

Gwen Lillemon	1 st term ends 12-31-2025	Randy Koefod	1 st term ends 12-31-2025
Bob Torgrimson	1 st term ends 12-31-2027	Darlane Miller	1 st term ends 12-31-2024
Sonia Heibel	1 st term ends 12-31-2027	Sharon Hermanson	1 st term ends 12-31-2024
Char Woldahl	1 st term ends 12-31-2027		

Grue Lutheran Church 2024 Committee Members

*Council representatives

Stewardship

Gwen Lillemon*
Vonnie Evavold
June Bjornson
Sharon Hermanson*

Worship & Evangelism

Beatrice Runningen
Sonia Heibel*
Patty Van Santen
Beverly Runningen
Darlane Miller*

2023 Nominating

1. Scott Juven
2. Randy Heibel
- 3.

Council members Nominating

1. Darlane Miller*
2. Sharon Hermanson*

AUDIT COMMITTEE- 2024

1. Darlane Miller*
2. Denise Juven

Property & Management

Chad VanSanten
Dan Ness
Greg Lillemon
Alex Lillemon*
Randy Heibel
Randy Koefod*

Education

Chelsy Moe
Denise Juven
Tammy Koefod
Sharon Hermanson*
Darlane Miller*
Fynn Miller

Cemetery Board

Greg Lillemon
Hal Jensen - Treasurer
Karl Miller
Randy Koefod
Alex Lillemon

Long Range Planning

Beatrice Runningen
Leslie Evavold
Char Woldahl*
Darlane Miller*

Parish Personnel

Committee

Darlane Miller* - VP *Grue*
Randy Koefod *- *Grue*
*- VP *Peace*
Duane Spielman*- *Peace*

Delegates-NW Synod

1. Darlane Miller*
2. June Bjornson

Great Get Together

- 1.
- 2.

Luther Crest Delegates

1. Sonia Heibel*
2. Alyssa Evavold
3. Sharon Hermanson*

Budget Committee

Peace Treasurer-
Tim Cunningham
Duane Spielman*
Grue Treasurer-
June Bjornson
Randy Koefod *

Coming to Peace this winter.....



Coffee Cup Sundays

The 2nd Sunday of January, February and March

PEACE will be having Coffee Cup Sunday Services.

These worship services will take place in the
fellowship dining room.

Feel free to sit at tables with your coffee and your church family.

These services are meant to be a little more casual and comforting for the

Valentine's Day Word Search

K	S	Q	S	J	I	V	R	T	D	S	R	Q	G	K
R	Q	Q	T	D	M	A	B	X	U	F	N	Q	J	J
K	G	D	A	S	N	L	Y	E	U	S	F	S	N	S
S	V	E	E	M	B	E	R	I	G	C	E	V	O	L
Q	W	Q	R	Q	Q	N	I	A	W	R	A	O	C	G
T	Z	E	T	G	R	T	Z	R	E	Y	I	N	Q	T
D	Q	I	E	E	O	I	K	Z	F	D	R	E	D	J
H	O	B	N	T	P	N	W	N	O	E	F	T	G	Y
X	U	T	H	C	H	E	H	V	X	E	A	L	A	T
N	A	G	B	P	R	E	E	Y	B	M	T	C	B	H
F	O	M	G	T	U	S	A	R	L	R	K	U	T	Q
I	M	T	M	Q	S	K	U	R	A	U	N	P	E	H
C	A	R	D	S	K	A	A	E	T	W	I	I	G	U
M	C	D	I	R	R	M	H	H	X	E	P	D	P	N
W	Q	K	L	Y	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	J	O	J

CANDY
CARDS
CUPID
DEAR
DOVES
FEBRUARY
FLOWERS
FRIENDS
HEART

TREATS
VALENTINE
SWEETHEART
RED
LOVE
KISS
PINK
HUG



Find
These
Words

JINXYKIDS.COM

February Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
9				10				
11				12				
13			14				15	
		16				17		
18	19		20				21	22
23		24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

Across

- 1. Biblical beast
- 4. Inflexible
- 9. Babysitter's handful
- 10. "Home _____"
- 11. Rightful
- 12. Arty problems
- 13. Expresses
- 15. Sooner St.
- 16. Get fit after injury
- 18. "Stubborn ___ a mule"
- 20. Corolla and prius maker

- 23. Bake , as eggs
- 26. They're nuts
- 27. Colorado Indian
- 28. Some Porcelian
- 29. Fraternity letters

Down

- 1. Boosts
- 2. Cencor's target
- 3. Asparagus unit
- 4. Thoroughbred
- 5. "You got that right!"
- 6. Moo ___ gai pan
- 7. "What's gotten ___ You?"
- 9. Escritoire
- 14. Foursome
- 17. Petty-Officer on merchant ship
- 18. Questions
- 19. Boutique
- 21. 1984 Nobelist
- 22. "Planet of the ___"
- 24. 1969 Peace Prize grp.