



**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



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**-Mark your calendar-
CONFIRMATION CLASSES
WILL START BACK UP ON
WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 3rd**

PEACE & GRUE ANNUAL MEETING ANNUAL MEETING DATES AND TIMES

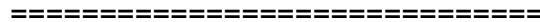
PEACE Annual meeting and potluck fellowship will be on
Sunday, January 14th,
following the 10:45 a.m. worship service.
A potluck fellowship will be enjoyed after the meeting-
bring your favorite dish!

GRUE Annual meeting and potluck fellowship will be on
Sunday, January 21st, following the 10:45 a.m. worship service.
Bring your favorite dish!

Please submit any agenda items you wish to discuss during these meetings to any council member or the church office. Council members and committee chairs please submit your annual reports/financials to the church office by :

January 4th for PEACE

January 11th for GRUE



PEACE January 14th/ GRUE January 21st



Note time change for January 14th

Early service @ Grue 9:00 AM

Late service @ Peace 10:45 AM



January 2024

Dear friends in Christ at Peace and Grue,

“For the kingdom of God depends not on talk but on power” (1 Corinthians 4:20).

If the gospel were not Jesus Christ himself, Paul could not describe it as the power of God. As the power of God, the Word of the gospel is none other than the kingdom of God. It does not simply proclaim it or point to it; it brings it causing the hearts, you and me, to enter it. As Jesus Christ, as the power of God, the gospel does more than simply offer the possibility that I can actualize and make it my own by my own decision, effort or power. The Word itself is the power of God, God’s kingdom.

If the Word is so significant, great importance attaches to its exact form. It has the form of a promise like the promise in Isaiah 43:1: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” The promise we find in Luke 2:10-11, “Do not be afraid...to you is born this day...a Savior.” The whole Bible, Old Testament and New, abounds in such promises.

Most important for Luther is the presence of Jesus Christ himself, the power of God, in the promises of confession and forgiveness, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. “By his authority I forgive you all your sins.” “I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” The meaning is this: “You belong to me, you are in my hands, says God; therefore “Take and eat, this is my body given for you! Take and drink, this cup is the new testament in my blood that was shed for the forgiveness of your sins!” By such a promise God discloses himself as the one who is in communion with us.

These promises are the center of Luther’s theology. When he says that God promises, he is not referring to something in the future that we may anticipate. As a good medieval German, he was thinking along the lines of the way a ruler bound and committed himself at his enthronement, a valid and powerful promise or pledge that takes place immediately and has a present effect. The ruler in making this commitment is bound by it and will keep it.

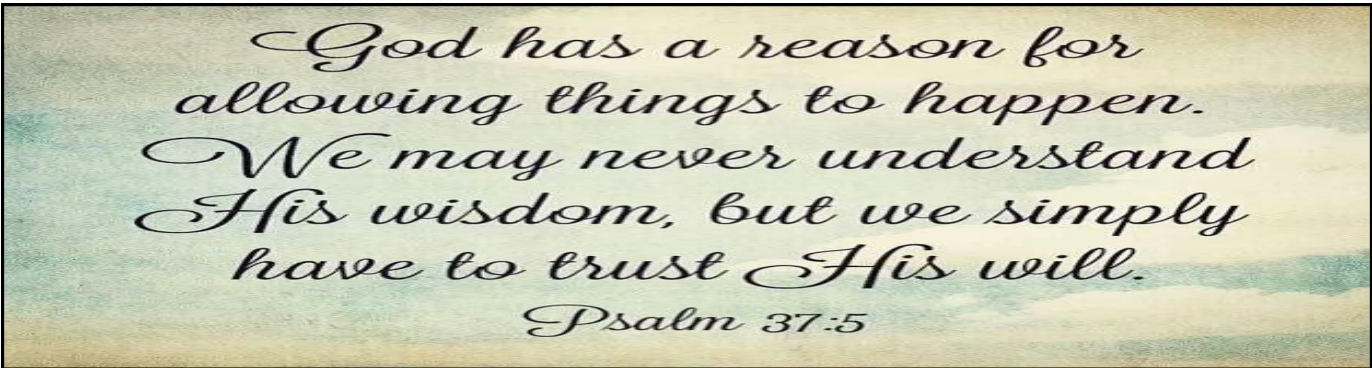
Faith lays hold of God by accepting and counting on the given promises, and therefore it lays hold of the faithfulness of God, of his truth, his word, his righteousness. The truth of faith lies in participation in the promise and faithfulness of God that is promised and imparted to it. This is how God commits himself in the promises made in his name.

The Psalms often speak of the “faith” of God. In his “faith” God gives faith to us, pledging himself to us in order that we can rely on him, as we ourselves stand by what we say and live up to what is expected. Throughout Scripture, God glorifies himself regarding us in the fact that he is merciful and faithful, always displaying faithfulness and blessing. We can rely upon it that he will do this, faithfully fulfilling all that we expect.

As we enter into 2024, we look back on the way the church found its strength in the promises of God. And we look ahead to the opportunities that are promised and imparted to it through faith in Jesus Christ, the power of God, the gospel itself.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan



PEACE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR January & February 2024

PEACE SERVICE 9:00 AM / SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 AM

No Sunday School January

FEBRUARY - Sunday School at 10:15

4	10:15
11	10:15
18	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - President's Day weekend
25	10:15

Grue Sunday School Schedule for January & February 2023

Grue service 10:45 am / Sunday School 9:30 am

No Sunday School January

FEBRUARY—Sunday School at 9:30

4	SS @ 9:30
11	SS @ 9:30
18	SS @ 9:30
25	SS @ 9:30



**PEACE CHURCH
ACOLYTE SCHEDULE 2024**

January

- 7 Beckett Johnson & Joey Johnson
- 14 Gavin Balgaard & Finn Thompson
- 21 Liam Hanson & Evan Rossum
- 28 AJ Olson & Troy Walvatne

****If you are unable to acolyte on the Sunday that you are listed please contact another youth and switch or ask them to cover for you-thanks.*



A big thank you to Amber Driggins and Heidi Balgaard for leading the Sunday School every Sunday. Thank you to Carmen Odegaard and Missy Evavold for their many years of helping with our Sunday School.

Thank you to the parents for bringing your children to Sunday School every Sunday. The children are our future church family.

...let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Luke 18:16.

Donna Grover and Lynn Jensen



READING'S FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY



<p>01-07-2024</p> <p>First Reading Numbers 6:22-27</p> <p>Psalm Psalm 8</p> <p>Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7</p> <p>Gospel Luke 2:15-21</p>	<p>01-14-2024</p> <p>First Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]</p> <p>Psalm Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</p> <p>Second Reading 1 Corinthians 6:12-20</p> <p>Gospel John 1:43-51</p>	<p>01-21-2024</p> <p>First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10</p> <p>Psalm Psalm 62:5-12</p> <p>Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31</p> <p>Gospel Mark 1:14-20</p>
	<p>01-28-2024</p> <p>First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20</p> <p>Psalm Psalm 111</p> <p>Second Reading 1 Corinthians 8:1-13</p> <p>Gospel Mark 1:21-28</p>	

BIRTHDAYS

JANAURY BIRTHDAYS



January 1st

Samantha Wick

January 2nd

Robert Holtberg

January 3rd

Benett Grove

Marie Hoffman

January 6th

Teresa Langlie

January 7th

Mabeth Jensen

Lee Runningen

Russell Sorenson

January 8th

Donna Norenberg

Dorothy Sorenson

January 10th

Anika Grove

January 11th

Dan Ness

January 12th

Alex Lillemon

Bente Swensrud

Frances Iverson

January 13th

Allen Boe

Amy Evavold

January 14th

Linda Ness

Jason Peikarski

January 15th

Jody Dahlen

January 20th

Catherine Koefod

Skyler Hill

Kevin Behrens

January 21st

Robert Ehlert

January 22nd

George Nelson

Ione Quam

Ryan Sorenson

January 23rd

Raleigh Brendmoen

January 24th

Jeremy Evavold

January 28th

Victor Evavold

January 29th

Cathy Franck

January 31st

Denise Juven

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



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

Faith Family Friends
for these we give thanks

GRUE Bible Study meeting:
No Bible Study Winter months



Peace Bible Study meeting: Tuesday, January 19th,
9:30am @ Peace.

Peace WELCA ladies, thank you for
the nice card and gift.
Melissa



Happy New Year!

PEACE WELCA MESSAGE

It was wonderful to have Sunday School children share the Christmas story with us! We appreciate the teachers and all other volunteers who put time and effort into this event. It is also very enjoyable seeing kids play songs with the bells. As some of you may remember, they were purchased with money given in memory of Judi Kronberg who passed away a couple of years ago and loved all of our children.

The Fick family made sure all December Sunday services were covered and, if you were called and said yes, thank you very much!

Trista Olson won the quilt this month. Our dedicated quilting ladies provide a beautiful quilt each month to our local thrift store.

We are exploring all options for providing a hamburger hotdish or scalloped potatoes for funerals in future. Identifying a catering source is one option. There are a few of us open to making the dish ourselves and considering that too. If you are interested, please let us know.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27th, 2024. Peace and Grue will be hosting the WELCA Conference & Gathering. The faith of a mustard seed is our general theme and Patty Wetterling will be our speaker. If you want to be involved in planning team, please let Val or I know.

Your Sister in Christ and WELCA Co President,

Janet Novak

P.S. Please check your contact information in Annual Report and WELCA handbook for accuracy. Call church office at 218-747-2273 to provide correct information.



Winter
Wonderland

The logo features the words "Winter" and "Wonderland" in a stylized, blue, 3D font. The word "Winter" is positioned above "Wonderland". Two snowflake icons are placed on either side of the word "Winter".

12/22/23

The Grue Bible study joined Peace Bible study on Dec. 19th at Peace for a Christmas lunch of chicken noodle and wild rice soups, bread and goodies.

All brought some goodies to exchange by way of a game, they drew a name from a bowl & that person got to choose a gift from the table and then the next person could either steal that gift or choose one from the table. Fun was had by all.

Donna Grover won the door prize.

Grue also packed a few boxes with goodies and took them over to the Assisted Living.

The winner of the Grue quilt raffle was Kathy Evavold

Grue Bible study's next meeting will be on January 16th, 2024 where we will discuss our bible studies for the year and our quilting dates.

I will be setting up projects on quilting and quilt patterns to use our blue jean materials and others.

Jesus, the Reason for the Season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

God bless / your sister in Christ.

Bea Runningen, Secretary



PEACE COUNCIL NEWS

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

12-10-23

Members present: Donna Grover, Duane Spielman, Tim Cunningham, Wayne Vorland, Jody Dahlen, and Gene Jensen

Donna Grover opened with a prayer.

Secretary's report: M, S, C to approve

Treasurer's report: Reviewed Budget: M, S, C to withhold 2nd half of NW MN Synod payment, and payments to Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Campus Ministries, and Luther Crest due to budget shortfall. Remainder of report was approved.

2024 Budget: Payments to Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Luther Crest, and Backpack program were removed from the line items to be paid in 2024 due to budget constraints. Motion by Wayne to accept 2024 budget with those revisions, 2nd by Gene. Motion carried.

Pastor's report: 18 visits, 5 events, 2 hospital calls. Pastor Dan is looking at taking a week of vacation the first part of January if a supply pastor can be found. Pastor Paul from Presbyterian will be available for emergencies if needed.

Committee reports;

Education Committee: No report

Christian Growth: No report

Worship committee: No report

Property and Maintenance: Dining room carpet has been cleaned and looks great!

New Business: Linda Bahnson, Brenda Johnson, and Teresa Ohren have agreed to serve on Church Council for the next term. Thank you! Donna Grover and Louise Lang's terms have ended. Thank you for being faithful servants to Peace!

Reminder: Worship times for Peace will change to 9:00 starting January 7th.

Annual meeting will be on January 14, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jody Dahlen

Peace Council Secretary

Grue Council Meeting December 10th, 2023

In attendance: Denise Juven, Darlane Miller, Gwen Lillemon, June Bjornson, Melissa Runningen, and Sharon Hermanson.

Guests in attendance: Bea Runningen, Patty Van Santen and Randy Heibel.

Devotions: Sharon read an article titled "Simple, Heartfelt Ways to Bless Your Ministry Team".

Additions to Agenda: Christmas peanut bags

Secretary's Report: M/S/G with one correction to be made. Cemetery committee is as follows: Karl Miller, Randy Kofoed, Greg Lillemon, and Hal Jensen. Randy is the contact person.

Treasure's Report: M/S/G- approved as written.

Pastor's Report: Pastor attending Peace's council meeting.

Old Business: Expenses for Harvest Meal- still waiting on some bills to come in. Table until next month.

Council nominations: The committee has been visiting with a few members about serving on the council.

U of Morris still working on agreement. They are sending a check for the use of the church in October.

New Business: Patty and Bea joined us to talk about using some memorial money to update the kitchen. Looking at painting the kitchen walls and cupboards. Possibly installing new flooring. Need to get quotes on flooring project. Also looking for volunteers to help do the painting and laying the new floor. More information to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Sharing the Peace: The council decided not to reestablish the practice of passing the peace at this time. With the flu season upon us, we will address it at a later date.

Marquee update: An insurance claim has been submitted. No response from the insurance company at this time.

New Microphone for Pulpit: Randy Heibel has looked into installing a microphone on the pulpit for our readers to use. The quote came in at \$400.00. The council voted and approved the purchase.

Synod assembly update: Sharon contacted the Synod office about the Great Synod Get-Together and the Synod Assembly for 2024. The Synod responded that the Get-Together is not planned for the coming year, but the Synod Assembly will be a 2 day all in person at Concordia College. Cost will be \$200.00 per delegate attending.

Peanut bags- Darlane has been gathering items for the bags to be handed out at the Christmas program. Apples- peanuts and candy. We thank her and her family for putting these together for all to enjoy!!

Next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on January 21st after 10:45am service. We will enjoy a potluck meal before the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Hermanson, Council Secretary

"How can we use what we have to grow closer to Jesus?" "With whom can we share the good news, and how will we do it?:"

GRUE COUNCIL NEWS

Special Council meeting December 13th, 2023

In attendance: Denise Juven, Randy Kofoed, Gwen Lillemon, Darlane Miller, Melissa Runningen, and Sharon Hermanson.

Meeting called order by Denise.

On agenda: Insurance claim on Marquee sign.

Randy had reported on a conversation with our Insurance company in regard to our claim on the Marquee sign.

After a brief conversation between the council members, we decided to withdraw our claim with Church Mutual Insurance Company.

There would be a \$5000.00 maximum payout with a \$1000.00 deductible.

We have some memorial money in the budget to put towards a new sign.

Randy will be talking with Excel Plastics of Fergus Falls about submitting some new sign designs to present to the council and the congregation.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Hermanson
Council Secretary



Great
are the
works
of the
Lord.

New Year with God

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

Church
 Hebrews
 Jesus
 Praise
 Sanctuary

Congregation
 Holy Bible
 Offering
 Prayer
 Sunday School

God
 Holy Spirt
 Pastor
 Respect
 Worship

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 long cold months of winter.

Dates: Sunday Jan. 14, Sunday Feb.11, and Sunday March 10.

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

NAME _____

OLD ADDRESS _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

Instructions: We would like to update our congregations addresses so that they may continue getting "God's Country News" (Peace/Grue Newsletter), please fill out the above form, and mail it to Peace Grue Parish at PO Box 157, Ashby MN 56309 or email to peace@prtcl.com or put it in the mail slot in the secretary's office door.