



**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

## NOVEMBER 2023



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*Enter his gates with  
thanksgiving,  
and his courts with  
praise!  
Give thanks to him,  
bless his name!*

PSALM 100:4



**Saints to remember on  
All Saints Sunday at both  
Grue and Peace,  
November 5, 2023**  
*At each congregation we will  
remember those from our  
fellowship who have died in  
the past year,  
and those new saints received in  
baptism.*

**SPECIAL OFFERING GIVING ENVELOPES-**  
Please remember to return the enclosed special offering envelopes you  
receive in the newsletter.  
All Thanksgiving special offerings are divided between our local food  
shelves and our missionaries.

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*



## November 2023

Dear friends in Christ at Peace and Grue,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith: as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.”

On Reformation Sunday, nine of our young men and women stood before the congregation and affirmed their baptism. Each of them prepared a faith statement and shared it with the congregation. I hope you were there to hear them. They also gave me an idea for this month's news letter: prepare and share a faith statement with you. A newsletter article I want to dedicate to our confirmation students, who task it is to wrestle with understanding of the importance of faith.

“Living by faith” is not only the key component of Paul in his epistle to the Romans but the whole of the apostle's theology, and indeed the message of the Bible itself. But what does it mean to live by the faith that God's all powerful Word creates and imparts? Those who try to answer this question can learn from Martin Luther. As he himself tells us, the gates of paradise opened for him when this truth disclosed itself to him and he recognized that the righteousness of faith consists solely in the fact that we are justified by the Word of God and with it have forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

There appears to be a general awareness in the worlds of church and theology that justification by faith is the center of Luther's Reformation, but this appearance is deceptive. When neither the breadth nor the depth of justification by faith alone is understood, and we fail to comprehend what is truly at stake it becomes an empty formula passed on with an apologetic tone. Raising the anxious question if justification has anything to say to us, who are allegedly inquiring not for the grace of God, but supposedly more radically for the very existence of God.

The problems of the Reformation seem outdated. Today the emphasis has shifted, without the former question having been solved, which does not make things easier. In our time, it is not so much atheism that is on the agenda but the return of “new”-often polytheistic (belief in or worship of more than one god)-types of religion. Generally speaking, today, we do not experience the law as God's law but rather as anonymous law, or at best a “categorical imperative” (the central philosophical moral concept introduced by Immanuel Kant, often understood as the father of the enlightenment).

Nevertheless, in this and in other modern recasting and debates of our situation before God, there always remains the inescapable obligation (law) that marks every person, an obligation that becomes fatal if the law and gospel are not distinguished. When justification by faith becomes just another option among many instead of the article upon which the church stands or falls we are in trouble. Justification is the hinge on which the very being of the world and its relation to God rest. God is obliged neither to create and preserve the world nor forgive sins. “All this is done out of pure fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit of worthiness of mine at all,” as Luther states in his explanation of the first article of the Apostles' Creed.

This in turn raises the question of God's own righteousness: the question of suffering and of the end to all evil. Justification by faith points towards the eschaton (a fancy theological term that refers to the end times, the final destiny of human kind) removing the hiddenness of God and God's righteousness. As one of my theological professors taught, justification by faith is the final judgement giving out ahead of time. Having given us the final judgement ahead of time we are free to not close our eyes to injustice and suffering, but rather lamenting them and living against them by faith, not giving them the last word.

Justification by faith alone reaches beyond our life time, it is valid not only for the sixteenth or twentieth century, but also for our new century and the times to come. It is the fundamental question of our being, our relation to God, the neighbor, and the world. It concerns not merely one's own history, not only the world history, but also natural history. Justification is not one theme among many, it is everything. That is why there is a Reformation Sunday.

Blessing on you and yours,

*Pastor Dan*

## BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



November 1<sup>st</sup>

Emily Evavold  
Tonya Nelson

November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Brandy Swinford  
(Christensen)

Val Fick

Milo Fisher

November 4<sup>th</sup>

Craig Grover

Evan Rossum

November 6

Randy Heibel

November 7<sup>th</sup>

Dustin Peterson

November 8<sup>th</sup>

Suzanne Wing

November 9<sup>th</sup>

Tammy Bestul

Jack Langlie

Brenda Risbrudt

Andrew Risbrudt

Don Hanson

November 11<sup>th</sup>

Richard Johnson

November 12<sup>th</sup>

Michael Van Santen

Tarryn Hill

November 13<sup>th</sup>

Tom Olson

Michael Glasby

November 15<sup>th</sup>

Andrea Ness

November 17<sup>th</sup>

Les Evavold

Karleigh Brendmoen

Marc Runningen

November 18<sup>th</sup>

Daniel Hoff

Pat Rohloff

November 19<sup>th</sup>

Tyson Langlie

Sam Sorenson

Brian Barry

November 20<sup>th</sup>

Sam Graham

Brandon Sethre

November 21<sup>st</sup>

JR Rasmussen

November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Sonia Heibel

November 24<sup>th</sup>

Matthew Heller

Tanner Peterson

November 26<sup>th</sup>

Heather Rossum

November 27<sup>th</sup>

Missy Evavold

Calum Langlie

Hunter Fick

November 28<sup>th</sup>

Karen Jordan

November 29<sup>th</sup>

Joyce Lacey

Vonnie Evavold

November 30<sup>th</sup>

Melissa Runningen

*If I don't have your  
birth date or if I have it  
listed incorrectly please  
e-mail or call me -  
747-2273 /*

*peace@prtel.com*

*Melissa R.*

## Reading's for November

**(11-5) First Reading**

**Revelation 7:9-17**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 34:1-10,22**

**Second Reading**

**1 John 3:1-3**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

**(11-12) First Reading**

**Amos 5:18-24**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 70**

**Second Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

**(11-19) First Reading**

**Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11]12**

**Second Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

**(11-21) Thanksgiving**

**First Reading**

**Deuteronomy 8:7-18**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 65**

**Second Reading**

**2 Corinthians 19:6-15**

**Gospel**

**Luke 17:11-19**

**(11-26) First Reading**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 95:1-7a**

**Second Reading**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

**\*\*Watch for order  
forms, in  
December,  
for purchasing  
poinsettias.**



**GRUE women meet:**

**Tuesday, November 14th, 1:30 @ Grue**

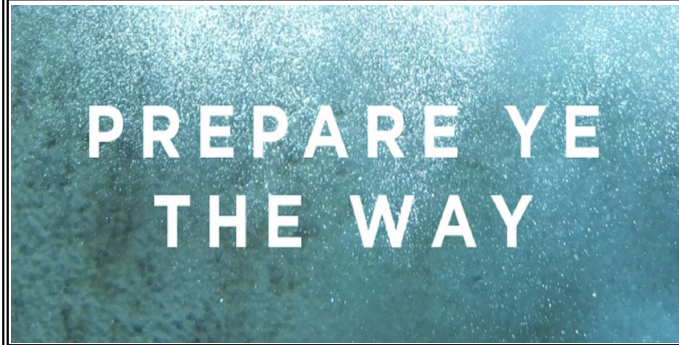
**RUTH /REBECCA Circle meeting:**

**Tuesday, November 14th , 9:30am @  
Peace.**



**PEACE CHURCH  
ACOLYTE SCHEDULE 2023  
November 2023**

- 11-5 AJ Olson & Beckett Johnson
- 11-12 Evan Rossum & Liam Hanson
- 11-19 Noah Anderson & Gavin Balgaard
- 11-21 Ushers (Thanks giving)
- 11-26 Liam Hanson & Finn Thompson



PEACE Welca Advent Brunch  
 “Prepare Ye The Way”  
 November 18th 9:00—10:30 am

**PEACE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR November -December 2023**



**PEACE SERVICE 10:45AM / SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM**

November 5th	SS @ 9:30
November 12th	SS @ 9:30
November 19th	SS @ 9:30 Practice for Christmas program begins
November 26th	No SS Thanksgiving
December 3rd	SS @ 9:30
December 10th	SS @ 9:30
December 17th	Christmas Program

**Grue Sunday School**

**November - December 2023**

**Grue service 9:00 am / Sunday School 10:15 am**

November 5th	SS @ 10:15
November 12th	SS @ 10:15
November 19th	SS @ 10:15
November 26th	SS @ 10:15
December 3rd	SS @ 10:15
December 10th	SS @ 10:15
December 17th	Christmas Program. Potluck 5:00, Program 6:00

10/17/23

The Grue Women's Bible Study was held at the Assisted Living in Ashby at 1:30 on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We opened our lesson reciting Psalm 100: Psalm of Thanksgiving followed with a prayer. Our lesson was on "Listening for the Shepards Voice", (John 10). Purpose: to provide us with strong assurance of Christs love for us.

Our next lesson will be covering the last two lessons of the year.

Lesson 12: Back from the Dead (John 11) and Lesson 13: The Kings Last Acts (John 12) at Grue Church at 1:30 on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> (Date Change due to the Holiday).

Our business meeting was held after our Bible Lesson; We are having a raffle on a full/queen blue jean quilt with proceeds going to local charities. The drawing will be held at Grue church after services, \$1.00 tickets will be for sale soon.

On Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Grue Church will be hosting the Harvest Meal, A Thanksgiving FREE meal, Hot turkey Sandwich, mashed potatoes & gravy, seasoned squash, cranberries, desert & beverage from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Just to share with our families and friends and the community.

We shared birthday cake with Patty.

Happy Birthday Patty, the cake was yummy.

*May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty.*

Blessings

Bea Runningen, Sec.

Next meeting at Grue Church at 1:30 on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> (Date Changed due to the Holiday).

Grue Welca Quilt Raffle  
Full/Queen blue jean quilt  
proceeds going to local charities.  
The drawing will be held at Grue church  
on Dec. 10th after services.

\$1.00 tickets

You can contact a Grue Circle member for tickets.

Need not be present to win.



"Trail of Stars"

10/23/23

NOVEMBER WELCA MESSAGE

It was fun to kick off Sunday school earlier this month. Thank you to all volunteers willing to give your time and talent to these children.

Val Fick attended the WELCA Conference 8 Gathering at First Lutheran in Alexandria. The theme and program all centered around God’s Beautiful Creation and our responsibility as stewards to keep it beautiful. It includes being conscious about the effects of global warming to keeping our road ditches clean and turning off lights as we leave a room to conserve energy. It will be our turn to host the Conference 8 gathering next Spring and we have already begun planning. If you want to be involved in this event, please let us know.

Morning of November 18<sup>th</sup>, WELCA will host an Advent Brunch scheduled for 9am-10:30am. *Prepare Ye The Way* will be our theme and all invited including friends and family with special invitation for children. All tables will be decorated for this event by our awesome Bible Study women. INVITE & FILL TABLES is all you have to do! Our intention, with God’s help and presence will be help us focus on the season to ready our hearts and minds. Each child attending will receive an Advent Calendar. We scheduled earlier so you can attend Grue’s Thanksgiving Dinner. It will be a wonderful day of fellowship.

Sunday after our Advent Brunch, November 19<sup>th</sup>, we will honor all Service Members in church and during fellowship. Recognition of their time and serving our Country is always important but especially this year. Beautiful quilts will be gifted to each attending.

**Much appreciation to Teresa Ohren and family** and (those who said YES when called) for serving in many capacities during month of October. I had pleasure of attending Confirmation Banquet and the meal and opportunity to visit our confirmation students was very nice. Teresa and team served a delicious meal to nine confirmands, their families and faith partners, 55 in all. It was a very full community room. If you have capacity and desire to serve in November, please call office or Tim & Sandy Cunningham at #218-731-0080.

Our very own member, Dawn Flewellen was recipient of October quilt drawing at Second Chance thrift.

To everyone who donated, worked and/or purchased at the WELCA Fall Stew Feed & Bazaar, kudos. Numbers were down but we made money to support all of our programs and missions.

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.



## PEACE QUILTING NEWS

The quilting ladies have contemplated for several years to honor the members of Peace Church that have served in the military to protect the freedoms we all enjoy in our country. At the beginning of this year Lynn Jensen went through her fabric stash and donated it to us; we made half a dozen quilts from this stack of fabric and decided this was the year as we were a third of the way there. Following is a list of our service members and veterans and when they served. There will be coffee and cake honoring them on Sunday, November 19th prior to worship; all are welcome to join us.

Thank you to all of our former service members and veterans and may God Bless you and your families. IF we have missed someone, please call the office with your information, and join us to celebrate you on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Name	Branch	Years Served	Basic Training	MOS
Brandon Anderson	US Army Reserves	2017-2019	Ft. Jackson, SC	
Allen Boe	US Navy	1964-1966	Great Lakes	Qtr. Master
Richard Clemensen	US Air Force	1956-1962	Lakeland Air Force Base	
Jerry Christenson	Us Army	1962-1965	Fort Ord, CA	Stationed Germany, Ordinance
Ray Dahlen	Army Nat'l Guard	1957-1963	Ft. Leonard Wood, MO	Specialist
James Evavold	US Air Force	1962-1966	Lakeland Air Force Base	Supply
LeRoy Evavold	US Air Force	1952-1956	Lakeland Air Force Base, San Antonio	Airborne/Radio Operator
Terry Fick	US Army Reserve	1965-1971	Ft. Lewis, WA	Weapons/Infantry
Lowell Flewellen	USMC	1980-1984	MCRD-Sand Diego, CA	Military Police
Hunter Fick	USMC and Army Nat'l Guard	2015-2021	USMCD - San Diego, CA	IT Aviation Logistics
David Grover	US Navy	1958-1962	Great Lakes	Clerical/Destroyer
Robert Holtberg	US Air Force	1951-1955	Lackland Air Force Base - San Antonio, TX	Radar Operator
Charles Holte	US Navy Seabee	1969-1971	Gulf Port MS	Construction/Mechanic
Mark Koefod	US Navy	1957-1960	Great Lakes USS/WASP	
Jack Langlie	US Army	1962-1965	Ft Leonard Wood, MO	Transportation
Robert Moerke	US Marines	1959-1963	USMCD San Diego, CA	Electronics/Radio Tech
Orland Norenberg	US Air Force	1954-1957	Lackland Air Force, San Antonio, TX	
Don Vodegel	US Army Nat'l Guard	1959-1965	Ft. Leonard Wood, MO	Personnel Specialist
Wayne Vorland	US Army	1971-1974	Ft Leonard Wood, MO	Transportation
Brandon Walvatne	US Navy			
Samantha Wick	US Army Nat'l Guard	2009-2015	Ft. Leonard Wood, MO	Automated Logistics

## Grue Council Meeting October 15, 2023

In attendance: Denise Juven, Gwen Lillemon, Darlane Miller, Randy [Koefod](#), Melissa Runningen and Sharon Hermanson.

Additions to Agenda: Well and church usage.

Secretary's Report: M/S/C

Treasure's Report: M/S/C

Pastor's Report: scheduled vacation on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Old Business:

Harvest meal- a sign-up sheet is in the gathering area. We would enjoy having you join us to prepare, serve and do some baking. Come to be a part of a joyful event!

Council is working on a letter that will be mailed to members of the church on direct deposit and happenings within our church.

### New Business:

Health Plan for Pastor was tabled until next parish meeting. Needing more information.

Parish Ed committee meeting- Update on Confirmation requirements were discussed.

Cemetery committee update- the committee met to discuss any updates to be done. Discussion on purchasing a small fire-proof safe to keep all records in.

UMM contract discussion- no update to report.

Well repairs- Randy Koefod will be contacting a well company to do repairs on the well head.

Church usage- Darlane has asked to host 2 family events in the church basement. Council approved the request.

Next Parish council meeting is November 8th at 7:00pm at Grue.

Motion made to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Hermanson  
Grue council Secretary

*"If you start counting your blessings, you will never stop saying thank you"*

Grue has 3 positions opening up on the Council, if you are interested please contact a council member.  
Thank You.



Peace Lutheran Church Council minutes

10-8-2023

Present: Donna Grover, Louise Lang, Duane Spielman, Gene Jensen, Jody Dahlen, Tim Cunningham, and Pastor Dan.

Secretary's report was reviewed. M, S, C to approve as written.

Treasurer's report was reviewed. The current revenue versus expenses continues to be an issue.

Revenues: 82,944.42

Expenditures: 106,987.16

Other Revenues: 2, 415.13

Revenue minus expenses: -21, 627.61

There will be letter sent out to the congregation regarding our church's financial shortfall, along with online giving instructions for members should they wish to give using that process.

Peace has received a memorial from the Paul Rustad family. This will be placed in the undesignated memorial fund as requested by the family.

Pastor Dan's report: 14 visits, 9 meetings, and 3 hospital visits.

Old Business: Melissa now has a cell phone for church use.

New Business:

Thanksgiving service will occur on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Peace will be hosting.

Christmas Service: One service ONLY at 5:30. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, so no morning services that day.

Committee Reports:

Education-no report

Christian Growth-no report

Property management-water heater is leaking. Duane has called Kevin Fick for service.

Worship Committee: no report

M/S/C to adjourn.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at Grue for Parish Council, with Peace Council to follow, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody Dahlen, Council Secretary

Peace has 3 positions opening up on the Council, if you are interested please contact a council member.  
Thank You.

## Peace Worship Committee Minutes

### Worship Committee Meeting

Oct. 15, 2023

Members Present: Teresa Ohren, Cindy Vorland, Candy Catoe, Carol Koefod

Members Absent: Brenda Risbrudt, Don Hanson, Pastor Dan

### Old Business:

- I. Acolyte: Schedule will be sent for Dec., Jan. Feb. Students will only be assigned for Sunday services. Ushers or students in the congregation will be asked to acolyte for special services.
- II. Children's Sermons: Will continue as usual
- III. Coffee cup Sundays:
  1. 2nd Sunday of Jan. Feb. and March
  2. Services will be held in the dining room downstairs. It is meant to be a more relaxed and casual atmosphere. No ushers as Bulletins and offering plates will be available as you make your way into the dining room. Coffee will be available.
  3. We will use the piano for music.
- IV. Thanksgiving Services at Peace Tues. Nov. 21 Pastor Paul leading worship
- V. **Decorating for Christmas Mon. Nov. 27 at 4:00 pm all are welcome.**

### New Business:

#### Services

December Services:

1. Christmas schedule: **NO** services Sunday Morning Dec. 24.
2. **Christmas Eve Service at Peace 5:30pm 3:00 @ Grue**
3. **NO Christmas Day Services at Grue**  
\*Acolytes will be asked to light Advent Candles

January Services:

Annual Meeting

February Services:

Nothing to report

II. Spring Meeting to discuss March, April and May Services will be held:

**Sun. Feb. 4 at 8:30am**

Submitted by: Carol Koefod



# FREE HARVEST MEAL


EVERYONE WELCOME!  
COME SHARE A MEAL WITH US!

**Saturday,  
November 18  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

@

**Grue Lutheran Church**  
36608 Grue Church Lane  
Battle Lake, MN 56515

Hot turkey sandwiches with gravy,  
mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash,  
beverage, and dessert



Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
John 1:29



### ACROSS

1. The Son of God.
2. John baptized with \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A dry, barren plain.
5. The place where God lives.
6. A strict observer of Jewish law.
9. The promised one; the Christ.
10. The mother of John the Baptist
11. To immerse by water or fire.

### DOWN

1. The river where John baptized.
3. A Jewish title of respect for a teacher.
4. The Spirit landed on Jesus in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. To turn away from sin.
8. Behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that takes away the sins of the world.

desert	Jesus	repent	Messiah
lamb	heaven	Jordan	
baptize	dove	water	
Elizabeth	Pharisee	Rabbi	