



**GREET. GATHER.
GROW AND GO
IN GOD'S GRACE**

Peace † Grue

God's Country News

An ELCA Parish



JANUARY 2026

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PEACE & GRUE ANNUAL MEETING DATES AND TIMES

Peace-January 18th / Grue-January 25th

PEACE Annual meeting, Sunday, January 18th, following the 9:00 a.m. Coffee Cup worship service. Coffee and cookies served.

GRUE Annual meeting and potluck fellowship will be on Sunday, January 25th, 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 7th

-MARK YOUR CALENDARS-

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME ON
WEDNESDAY JAN. 7th, 2025**



"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of Peace and Grue Parish,

Blessings to you and all you hold dear as we enter into a new year. To be honest, I've never been great at New Year's Resolutions, quite possibly because I am not the best at sticking to them. But, particularly as I get older, I pay more attention and try to recognize bad habits and things in my life that need to change in order to accommodate my body that is aging by the minute. Primarily, I need to consume less, and move more. The understanding that through Christ, we are in a perpetual state of movement and transformation, just like our physical bodies, reminds us that it's important to prayerfully reflect on what new mission fields and wildernesses the Holy Spirit is steering us into. I thought about this the other day during our inaugural snow storm of the year during Thanksgiving. I was looking out our back window at our flowering crab where we hang a good number of bird feeders. Lo and behold, I looked up on one of the branches and saw not one, but THREE robins!?!? My curiosity got the best of me, because I had it in my head that robins were migratory birds and they should have migrated south long before now. But, it turns out, robins don't actually "go south for the winter". They tend to gather in big flocks, making small migratory trips to find food. That tracks with the need for movement in our lives of faith. Some bird species need to migrate far distances to feeding grounds, others, like the robin stay put, or venture out for shorter distances. But regardless, we, like the birds, need to move towards wherever the source of nourishment is. For some it's like my friendly neighborhood nuthatches, chickadees, cardinals and all the woodpeckers, sticking close to home sustained by local food sources. Perhaps similar to those of you who find you are spiritually fed in the privacy of your home in daily reflection and prayer. Some of you may be like the robins, venturing out a bit further, feeling safer and more secure by building and working within local community to find sources of spiritual nourishment and live into your call to mission. Others still may feel drawn to moving outside of your comfort zone, perhaps into a national or global mission field or ministry, outside of your usual range. Perhaps you've migrated away from the area, and have migrated back to retire or to care for aging family. All are meaningful ways to grow in our faith, to engage actively and not stagnate by simply remaining in place. Whatever your spiritual migratory pattern is, it requires some courage on your part, because change of any kind requires us to consider and challenge the unknown. As the quote from MLK states, we don't always see the whole staircase, but our faith assures us that we're moving to places where God is always present. Whether you take baby steps or take steps two at a time, we can lean into the promise that Jesus also was migratory. He migrated to earth in the form of a baby, constantly moving toward the cross in his human life in order for us to be reconciled to God, then returned back "home to heaven" completing a migratory pattern of salvation for us all. Guided by the Holy Spirit (not coincidentally, often represented by doves which are both migratory and also stay within their residential area over the seasons), we can be assured that our spiritual movement matters in whatever space, distance or time that may be.

Think about those birds, if they simply stayed on their favorite branch and didn't move anywhere, they would get weak and eventually starve, making them easier pray for predators. Likewise, when our spiritual life stagnates and we're stuck in place, we often find ourselves vulnerable to a predatory Satan along with all the sinful temptations he throws our way.

Monty and I wish you all the very best in this upcoming year. We pray that wherever your spiritual migration leads you, you find nourishment, comfort and rest and every other good thing we receive through the gift of Grace from God in the birth, death and resurrection of Christ, made known by the power of the Spirit. Wishing you a very Happy New Year!

God's Peace,
Pastor Julie

"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"
Matthew 6:26



<p>01-04-2026</p> <p>First Reading <u>Jeremiah 31:7-14</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 147:12-20</u> Second Reading <u>Ephesians 1:3-14</u> Gospel <u>John 1:[1-9] 10-18</u></p>	<p>01-11-2026</p> <p>First Reading <u>Isaiah 42:1-9</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 29</u> Second Reading <u>Acts 10:34-43</u> Gospel <u>Matthew 3:13-17</u></p>	<p>01-18-2026</p> <p>First Reading <u>Isaiah 49:1-7</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 40:1-11</u> Second Reading <u>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</u> Gospel <u>John 1:29-42</u></p>
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<p>01-25-2026</p> <p>First Reading <u>Isaiah 9:1-4</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 27:1, 4-9</u> Second Reading <u>1 Corinthians 1:10-18</u> Gospel <u>Matthew 4:12-23</u></p>



<p align="center">PEACE CHURCH ACOLYTE SCHEDULE 2026</p> <p><u>January</u></p> <p>4 AJ Olson & Bently Olson</p> <p>11 Coffee Cup Sunday</p> <p>18 Coffee Cup Sunday Annual Meeting to follow</p> <p>25 Isaiah Anderson & Darian Holte</p>

******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.***



JANAURY BIRTHDAYS

January 1st

Mathias Restad
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 Grover

January 11th

Dan Ness

January 12th

Alex Lillemon

Bente Swensrud

January 13th

Allen Boe

Amy Evavold

January 14th

Linda Ness

Jason Peikarski

January 15th

Jody Dahlen

January 20th

Catherine Koefod
Skyler Hill

January 21st

Robert Ehlert

January 22nd

George Nelson

Ione Quam

Ryan Sorenson

January 24th

Jeremy Evavold

January 28th

Victor Evavold

January 29th

Cathy Franck

January 31st

Denise Juven

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*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*

 Newsletter

 Newsletter

 Newsletter

 Newsletter

**God's Country
News Articles
are DUE by the
15th of each
MONTH**


**Happy
Birthday!**

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

January 20, 2026

PEACE Bible Study meeting:
9:30 am at Peace



GRUE Bible Study meeting:
1:30 pm at Ashby Living Center

PEACE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE for February 2026
Peace Service 9:00 am / Sunday School 10:10 am
No Sunday School January

FEBRUARY - Sunday School at 10:10

1	SS @ 10:10
8	SS @ 10:10
15	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - President's Day weekend
22	SS @ 10:10



GRUE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE for February 2026
Grue Service 10:45 AM / Sunday School 9:30 AM
No Sunday School January

FEBRUARY - Sunday School at 9:30

1	SS @ 9:30
8	SS @ 9:30
15	SS @ 9:30
22	SS @ 9:30

Thank you to all that attended the Community Christmas Pageant.

We had 23 kids that took part.
 Thank you Kelly Weinandt, Ryan Kelli,
 Donna Grover, Lynn Jensen & everyone who pitched in.

We hope to see everyone next year.



PEACE WELCA MESSAGE.....January 2026**WELCA's Christmas Market was a wonderful morning!****We welcomed many community members and their families.**

We appreciate the generosity of our members who baked lefse, cakes, scones, BUNS, cookies, bars, breads and many other holiday baked goods, snacks and candies. Each year we worry abt about our craft area and again, we were blessed with a tree filled with beautiful knitted tree ornaments and many lovely gift items. Quilts always are the highlight and we had a table filled with many. Teresa Magnuson designed, made and donated the lovely quilt to be raffled off. Bonita Evavold was the lucky winner and our second place laptop quilt with beverage mugs was won by Josh Lott of Fergus Falls. If interested, there may still be a video available on Jody Dahlen's FB page narrated by Carol Koefod. Because of your generosity we made over \$5,500 that morning and every child was gifted a prayer cube.

December volunteer positions were filled by the Fick family. If you ushered, helped with communion, read or served, thank you very much. The Dahlen Family will be responsible for those services in January. Please say yes or better yet, call or text Jody at 320-760-4050 and offer to help one Sunday.

In 2026, our country is celebrating 250 birthdays and we will have a special celebration each month as well starting with January. On the first Sunday, we will honor and celebrate our Peace members who have celebrated 90 or more birthdays.

Winner of the quilt drawing at Second Chance Thrift this month is Avery Evavold from Ashby.

If you are interested in a visit by Pastor Julie, please call the office.

Sister in Christ and WELCA Co President
Janet Novak

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



The Grue Welca group took part in the Christmas Fest in Dalton on December 13th from 9-3 at the Community Center.

Many people braved the cold weather to see what we had to offer, we did well on many of our items.

We sold over \$300.00 of food & crafts. Thanks to everyone who made items for the sale.

All proceeds will go to local charities.
Donations will be given out in the spring of 2026.

We did well on the raffle of our Jean Quilt. First prize is the Jean Quilt & choice of two yarn Afghans for second and third prizes.

The raffle tickets are \$1.00 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased from our Grue women or from Melissa at the Peace Church Office.

The Quilt was made from blue jeans that were donated to us and made by Bea Runningen.

The Afghans were made by Amy Maunumaki.

The drawing for the Quilt & Afghans will be held on Jan. 25, 2026, need not be present to win.

Our Bible lessons will begin again in a month or two, date will be announced.
Our next lesson will be no. 3 "Signs of the Times" (Mark 13). This study covers Jesus' final words of warning.

Button up, it is cold out there.

Have a wonderful Christmas
with family and friends.

Enjoy all those cookies.

Blessings,

Bea Runningen, Sec.



Worship Team Minutes

Worship Committee Minutes November 2, 2025

Members Present: Candy Catoe, Cindy Vorland, Brenda Risbrudt, Pastor Julie, Carol Koefod
Members Absent: Teresa Ohren

Old Business:

I. Costume Blessing/Trunk or Treat:

A. Great success! 100+ Blessings handed out and lots of chatter about Pastor Barbie and Lucipurr. A wonderful outreach, Thank you Pastor Julie and Denise Hanson!

II. Blessing of the Blaze/ All Saints Sunday

B. Another great success and good turnout. The community of hunters and hunting families appreciated the Blessing.

New Business:

I. Thanksgiving Community Services:

Tuesday Nov. 25 7:00pm at Grue Pastor Paul preaching includes all 4 community churches all are welcome

II. Decorate for Christmas November 23 after church. All are invited and encouraged to help.

III. Special Advent Events:

A. Poinsettias can be ordered through the office or order forms in the narthex or on Facebook. Teresa and Candy organizing this.

****DECEMBER 7 INSTALLATION for PASTOR JULIE** 10:00am Joint Service at Peace. Alternate Date Jan 4.**

IV. "Longest Night" Service

A. Dec. 17 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Community Service recognizing that the holidays can be very sad and difficult for some. This is a special service for anyone struggling to find joy in the season. Led by Pastor Julie. All are welcome.

V. Christmas Eve Services @ Peace 5:30pm

VI. January Events

A. Jan 11 Pastor Birgitte

B. Undecorate Jan 11 after services, all encouraged to help

C. Annual Meeting Jan 18 with Pastor Rebel Hurd **** Coffee Cup Sunday Requested for Annual Meeting****(change-Pastor Genelle Netland)

VII. February Events

A. Worship Committee Meeting Feb. 1st

B. Ash Wednesday Feb. 18th

Next Meeting will be held Feb 1st. Time TBD when Pastor Julie can join the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Koefod
Worship Committee

Grue Council meeting minutes December 14, 2025

Those in attendance: June, Melissa, Sonia, Darlane and Pastor Julie

Devotions were stayed since we just finished church services.

Secretary report: m/s/c

Treasure report: m/s/c

Pastor Julie's report: m/s/c

Old Business:

*Wheels on the old piano do work, it was moved without damaging the carpet.
Project is tabled until spring.

New Business:

*Broken window in the Narthex. Window will be fixed spring 2026.
*Grue Annual meeting will be January 25th, after church service and potluck.

Motion made to adjourn. m/s/c

In Christ's name

Darlane Miller, substitute secretary



God's People in Service
JANUARY 2026
Peace † Grue Lutheran

GRUE 10:45 a.m. Late Service	January 4 White Holy Communion	January 11 White	January 18 Green	January 25 Green GRUE Annual Meeting w/ potluck
Janitors/Ushers	Scott & Denise Juven, Sharyn Brakken and Alyssa & Richard Zmolek			
Reader	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Music	Denise Juven	Cindy Vorland	Contemporary	Denise Juven
PEACE 9:00 a.m. Early Service	January 4 White Holy Communion	January 11 White Coffee Cup Sunday	January 18 Green Coffee Cup Sunday PEACE Annual meeting	January 25 Green
Music	Brenda Risbrudt	Brenda Risbrudt	Contemporary	Brenda Risbrudt
Ushers	Dahlen Family	.....	.....	Dahlen Family
Readers	Dahlen Family	Dahlen Family	Dahlen Family	Dahlen Family
Psalms Reader	AJ Olson	.....	Gavin Balgaard	Darian Holte
Acolytes	AJ Olson Bently Olson	.....	Gavin Balgaard Gage Norby	Isaiah Anderson Darian Holte
Communion Helper (set up, serve, clean)	Dahlen Family	.....	.....	.....
Cookie Servers	Dahlen Family	Dahlen Family	Dahlen Family	Annual meeting and Coffee & treats

Serving Team Peace Lutheran Month of January 2026

Chairpersons: Jody Dahlen & Family

*Ushers are reminded to pick up bulletins and trash and replace hymnals in racks prior to leaving the sanctuary.

MAKE SURE THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF
AND ALL DOORS ARE LOCKED!

PEACE † GRUE Lutheran Parish — JANUARY 2026

PARISH OFFICE 218-747-2273, Cell# 218-770-8457 Email peacegrue@outlook.com
 306 Larson Avenue, Box 157, Ashby, MN 56309 Church website: www.peacegrue.org
 Pastor Julie Carlson, 320-491-2304 Email: pastorjuliecarlson@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Times Change, January—April Peace 9:00 am, No SS in Jan. Grue 10:45 am, No SS in Jan. PQ - Peace Quilting 1st & #rd Wed., at 9:00 am				1 Church office closed	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3
4 Holy Communion Peace service 9am Grue service 10:45 am	5	6	7 Confirmation 5:30pm-6:30pm	8	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10 Pastor Julie on vacation 1/10 to 1/24
11 Pastor John Mahola leading worship services Peace service 9am Grue service 10:45 am	12	13	14 Confirmation 5:30pm-6:30pm GRUE council meeting 7:00pm at GRUE	15	16 Pastor's Sabbath	17
18 Rev. Genelle Netland leading worship service PEACE service 9:00 am **Annual meeting PEACE following worship service GRUE service 10:45	19	20	21 Confirmation 5:30pm-6:30pm	22	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24
25 PEACE service 9am, GRUE service 10:45am ** Annual meeting GRUE following worship service.	26	27	28 Confirmation 5:30pm-6:30pm	29	30 Pastor's Sabbath	31

RETURN SERVICE REQUEST



God's Country News
Peace-Grue Lutheran Parish
306 Larson Ave
PO Box 157
Ashby MN 56309



2026

JANUARY

**PEACE  GRUE LUTHERAN PARISH
OF THE ELCA**

Office 218-747-2273, Office Hours M-Th 9-2

Office Manager-Melissa Runningen

E-mail peacegrue@outlook.com, website www.peacegrue.org

Pastor Julie Carlson 320-491-2304 Email: pastorjuliecarlson@gmail.com

Pastor in office M, T, &Th 9:30-12:30, Wed 12-5 or by appointment