#### **GOODHUE MESSENGER-DECEMBER 2021**

The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be **afraid**. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:10-11

Isn't it interesting that God's angelic announcement of Christmas begins with, "Do not be **afraid**"? What do **fear** and Christmas have in common? Based on people's Christmas anxieties, plenty!

December fills many with depression. Some are overwhelmed by what their Christmas celebration should feel like, look like, even sound like. Thoughts of creating the perfect Christmas celebration fill many with stress. Some dread Christmas due to money issues and the pressure to spend more than they can afford. Other have lost loved ones, making Christmas a painful trigger of past memories and missed loved ones. There is pressure to attend Christmas gatherings. As anxieties grow, so do shame, guilt and the gaping hole of depression.

If you've ever been **fearful** or anxious at Christmas, you're in good company. Mary, Joseph and the shepherds all felt **fears**. No warm, safe, sterile birthing suite or medical team would help Mary give birth to her first child. Instead she faced the stress of childbirth with only Joseph to help her. Imagine the anxiety this couple faced when Jesus was born.

The shepherds were filled with **fears** too. "Terrified" described their reaction to a sky full of angels. They might have wondered, "Did God send the angels to punish us?"

God knows your **fears**. That's why the announcement of Christmas begins with an amazing command, "Do not be **afraid**!" This is good news for you! God has come in the flesh to erase all your **fears**!

Ever fear not measuring up? Jesus came to forgive you from all your past faults or present failures. Anxious over a life situation? God says, "Do not be **afraid**!" You don't have to do life on your own. God came at Christmas to prove his love and to assure you, "Never will I leave you or forsake you!"

Peace comes from a life free from **fears**. God's Christmas comfort is, "Do not be **afraid**!" Rescue has come. A Savior has been born for you!

Submitted by Pastor Robbin Robbert



# Merry Christmas!

## Please join us for worship

#### **Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 3:00 pm at Grace Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 5:00pm at St John's Christmas Candlelight Service, December 24, 7:00pm at St Peters

### **Christmas Day**

Christmas Day Service with Communion, December 25, 9:00am at Grace Christmas Day Service with Communion, December 25, 9:00am St John's Sunday Service with communion, December 26, 9:30am at St. Peter's

# **Drive Thru Live Nativtiy** At **Grace Lutheran Church** 39774 County 4 Blvd Goodhue, MN Saturday, December 4



5pm-7pm

#### **FOR KIDS**

Looking for some extra time for your Holiday shopping?? We have the solution!!

# Saturday, December 11th 8:00am - 1:00pm

Bring Your Children For Some Christmas Fun! (Infant through 4th Grade) We welcome 5th Grade thru Adult to help

Contact Shelley@651-212-3219 to help. Register at gracestpeters.org

Christmas Story, Songs, Crafts & Activities

Lunch will be provided

Grace Lutheran Church 39774 Co 4 Blvd Good-

## SEVERE WEATHER

In the event of severe or inclement weather conditions please check our website:

gracestpeters.org or our facebook page

You may also tune to KWNG Radio 105.9FM

or KCUE 1250AM for a closure

announcement.

#### **Wise Penny Thrift Store**

Wise Penny Thrift Store, 206 Bush St., Red Wing, is a thrift store that is run by area WELS congregations, and area WELS churches and schools are beneficiaries of some of the proceeds. Contact Ronnelle Schulz if you need more information. Shopping hours are 12pm-4pm, Monday-Saturday. Donations can be dropped off Monday-Thursday.

## Grace & St. Peter's Sunday School Corner

### Schedule of Christmas Program Practice

Wednesday, December 1: 5:30-7:00p.m. at Grace a light supper served at 5:15p.m.

Wednesday, December 8: 5:30pm-7:00pm at Grace light supper served at 5:15p.m.

NO PRACTICE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Sunday, December 5: 9:30am at St. Peter's

Sunday, December 12: 9:30am at Grace and at St. Peter's

Saturday, December 18: 9:00am-10:30am at Grace

Sunday, December 19: 8:30am Sunday School Children Christmas Program at Grace.

Sunday, December 19: 10:45am Sunday School Children Christmas Program at St. Peter's.

Parents and Grandparents we would like to encourage you to help your children and grandchildren learn their parts for the Christmas Program.

We presently have 55 children enrolled in Sunday School., it will be a delight to hear them all excited about telling the News of Christs birth in the Christmas Story.

#### Members of St. Peter's and Grace:

We are doing a food collection for the area food shelves. There are boxes in the entry to put items in. Please have the donations to the church by Dec. 15. Thank you ahead of time for your donations.



**Quilting Bible Study and Quilting** 

# **No Quilting Bible Study or Quilting** in December **Merry Christmas!**

#### St Peters Council Meeting November 9,2021

Meeting was called to order by President Larry Holst. For the Sunday service after Christmas (December 26) one Council members Lonnie and Curt were absent. Dean service will be held at St. Peter's at 9:30. served as the secretary.

Pastor Weigand gave an opening devotion.

The October secretaries report was read and approved.

Pastor Weigand's report included the following: Church attendance for October averaged 61, 10 higher than September. Smaller numbers on livestream, but still 22 viewed the service on Facebook. Sunday Bible Study (12) Thursday Bible Class (12) Quilting Bible Study (5)

He is also doing some visits of delinquent members, evangelism visits, and some "every member" visits.

He also made note that December 5<sup>th</sup>, will be St. Croix Sunday at St. Peter's with the Croixaliers singing for the 10:45 service. A guest pastor from St. Croix will be doing the preaching at St. Peters' and at Grace that morning. It was decided to have no Bible Study that morning and that the Sunday School would meet at the parsonage.

Christmas worship services were discussed. The Children's Christmas programs for both congregations will be on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Grace service at 9:00 am and St. Peter's at 10:45.

Also scheduled is a 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service at Grace.

7:00 pm Candlelight Service at St. Peter's.

9:00 am Christmas Day Service (with communion) at Grace.

We are still in search for one layperson or couple to be part of the Joint Youth Group.

Sunday School is going well with an average attendance for October of (11).

The treasure's report was approved.

Larry reported on the Sunday School Fund with an approximate balance of \$1250.00.

Mark reported that the nominating committee would be meeting soon.

Pastor received a call from our insurance company (Church Mutual) regarding a water leak detector. Larry will contact them for further information.

Under New Business, approved combining five separate (tax exempt) property tax parcels into two.

Approved hiring Lodermeier Implement for snow removal at the same cost as last year. (\$50.00 per time)

Next scheduled council meeting is December 14th, at Grace.

Bible Breakfast and Joint Elders meeting rescheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Johns'.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

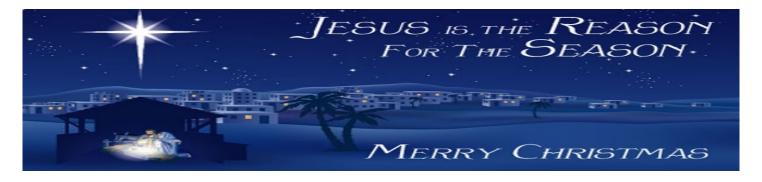
Respectfully Submitted, Dean Opsahl, Acting Secretary

#### **Grace Council Meeting 11-9-2021**

Elder Bo Schulz called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer. The secretary's, financial secretary's and treasure's reports were all read and approved. Pastor reported on church attendance, the Men of His Word Rally, and Christmas for Kids Planning. A motion was made to recommend to the Dual Parish Board to have just one joint service on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, taking some workload off pastor following a busy couple days of services around Christmas. Work on the land purchase continues and is nearing completion. The tree gifted from St. Peters for the anniversary was planted. Garbage Service for Pastor and the church was discussed, with a motion being passed to get the 95-gallon trash can from Lake City Disposal. A motion to recommend the Dual Parish Board 2022 Salary and Benefits Package to voters passed. The purchase of an AED for church was discussed, and information will be collected for a future council meeting. Next council meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup> at Grace at 6:30pm. Motion to adjourn. Submitted: Brandon Lunde

#### <u>Grace Semi-Annual Voters Meeting – November 14,2021</u>

President Seth Thomforde called the meeting to order. Pastor led with prayer. The Secretary's and Financial Reports were read and approved. It was noted the Mission Goal for 2021 of \$15,000 had about \$5,000 remaining to be reached. Voters approved the transfer of Brent and Wendy Lexvold from St. Johns. Pastor reported church attendance has nearly rebounded since the beginning of the Pandemic. Shut-ins are being visited as nursing home restrictions allow and both Sunday School and Catechism are going smoothly in their given formats. A motion passed approving Pastor's report. The land purchase is nearing completion with December 1<sup>st</sup> set as a goal for the official purchase date. Attorney Matt Rockne is finishing up some language in the purchase agreement. After the land survey, it was discovered that because of the location of the field driveway, an easement is not needed to allow usage for both landowners. Both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Service Schedules were outlined. Please note one joint service will take place Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Peters. Marty Amundson agreed to do the snow removal this winter and is looking for a couple backups should he be out of town. Pastor's 2022 benefits package recommendation from the dual parish board of a \$59,828.07 salary (in which \$5,000 can be declared as a parsonage allowance), parsonage and utilities, health insurance and pension through Synod, an increase in mileage to 56 cents per mile, 3 weeks vacation and additional nonvacation services where we pay a guest speaker (6 at Grace, 3 at St. Peter – same as 2021) was approved. A motion to approve the language "Under Provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, the Minister of the Gospel serving as the Pastor of Grace Lutheran church of Rural Goodhue, Martin R. Weigand, may have a portion of his compensation designated as a parsonage allowance. The amount so designated for the year 2022 is \$5,000. He shall also be provided with the rent-free use of the home at 39774 Co. 4 Blvd, Goodhue, MN, for the year 2022, so long as he remains the pastor of Grace" was made and passed. Dean Tiedemann was elected elder for a 3-year term replacing Seth Thomforde. Future ushering was discussed. Suggestions included Pastor ushering out the congregation following the service and Church Elders or Council Members assisting with communion and other ushering needs, asking for help when needed. Ways to increase new member outreach with technology was discussed as well as what the future of livestreaming may look like. A motion was made to adjourn. Submitted: Brandon Lunde



As part of Grace and St. Peter's ladies' membership in LWMS, each church is assigned the name of a missionary pastor and foreign country missionary's Claudia Martin Length (Claudia Martin Length) Claudia Ma

#### St. Peter's names:

Pastor Nathan Wagenknecht 2541 Sebring Circle Anchorage Ak 99516 Birthday 1/24 Anniversary 4/17

Louise Felgenhauer
Wisconsin Lutheran College
8800 W Blumound Rd.
Milwaukee WI 53266
Freshman at WLC
Family in Zambia
Birthday 6/22/2002

Peter Wolfgramm
c/0 Peter Wolfgramm
1655 Acorn Ct
Menasha WI 54952
Sophmore @ Fox Valley Lutheran HS
Family in Russia
Birthday 9/9/2005

### Here are the student names that havebeen assigned to Grace:

Claudia Meyer
Martin Luther College
1995 Luther Court Box 1057
New Ulm Mn 56073-3965
Grenada
Senior-5 year
Birthday-December 10, 1998
and
Drew Witte
C/O Michael & Lisa Goeglein
1618 Payne St.
New Ulm, MN 56073
Zambia
Freshman: Minnesota Valley Luth HS
Birthday-October 24, 2006

# Here is Grace's missionary name and address:

Missionary, Gary Lupe from Cibecue, Arizona Birthday: 4-24-65

Missionary Spouse: Berlita Lupe

Birthday: 8-17-67

Children– Four daughters ages 30-36 (3 married) Two sons ages 31 and 20 (1

married)

Address: PO Box 1449 White River, AZ 85941 Phone: (928)594-5131

E-mail: garylupe83@gmail.com

#### LWMS Rally Features Program on Central Africa Mission submitted by Beth Brekke

St. Peter's Goodhue hosted the Fall rally of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), Hiawatha Valley Circuit, on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 70 people attended the in–person event that had been postponed since April 2020 due to the pandemic. With fewer places to go and things moving to a virtual format, Dr. Lori Ryan watched the online version of that cancelled Spring rally and became interested in serving the LWMS as a contact woman for their Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM). As contact person she is responsible for distributing information monthly to area churches. She shared information at the event through a slideshow and keynote address.

Lori grew up on a farm in Iowa. While attending Luther College, she met Brent Ryan, a Goodhue area farm boy. Brent and Lori were married in 2004 and now live in New Hope, MN. They chose that area so their 3 children, now ages 8, 10 and 14, could attend Holy Trinity, a WELS school. It is also a convenient commute to Abbot Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis where Brent is an internal medicine doctor who sees adult patients, and Lori is a pathologist who oversees lab testing.

First earning a degree in public health, Lori always had an interest in global health and also in Christian mission work. Volunteering for the CAMM program is a way for her to combine those two interests. While she is relatively new to the program, CAMM has been operating for 60 years. WELS began its medical mission in the African nation of Zambia in 1961 and expanded its missionary and medical work to neighboring Malawi in 1970. There has been great improvement in health care, infant mortality and medical equipment since they opened and they hope to upgrade more things and possibly expand to other areas in the future.

Zambia and Malawi are both considered developing countries, meaning they still do not have consistent, reliable water or electricity. Solar power is increasingly popular and citizens often travel to a borehole (well) to pump water for their daily needs. The population is generally poor and lacks adequate health care. The CAMM works to heal body and spirit in both countries. Each day starts with a devotion for those waiting in line at the clinic and nearby borehole. Church services are also held at the clinic locations on Sundays. Mission workers may also perform baptisms, which is not allowed in government run medical facilities.

Zambia is similar in size to the state of Texas with a population exceeding 17 million. The clinic operates in a recently refurbished physical building, seeing 15,000 people per year. They have recently started using electronic medical records so patients will no longer need to carry their health history with them. This clinic offers many basic services with an emphasis on nutrition and sanitation issues and are currently following COVID prevention guidelines. They also offer a much needed birthing site.

Malawi is a country the approximate size of Pennsylvania with a population of 19 million. The CAMM program does not have a physical clinic here but travels to four villages using land rovers to carry equipment and supplies which are stored at the missionary's home. Many people come to these mobile clinics for vaccinations or treatment of Malaria. 6,500 of the 33,000 people seeking help from this mission were treated for Malaria as the prevention program is not as aggressive as it is in Zambia at this time. Both locations are staffed by locally trained medical personnel.

The extension of this mission into Malawi was the direct result of Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA) members who moved from Zambia to Malawi. CAMM is supported by the WELS synod but is not a budgeted mission. Operating solely on donations, every dollar received goes to the efforts of this Christ centered medical mission. Congregations, ladies' groups, schools, and individuals provide the necessary funds to continue serving the people of Zambia and Malawi. Those attending the Fall rally donated \$306.70 to the LWMS working fund and an additional \$609.00 to the missions fund. Additionally, there was a sizable collection of needed items including pill bottles and baby blankets. The mission is also in need of other baby items and sunscreen.

For more information on CAMM and how you can help, visit their website, www.camm.us. To learn more about LWMS, their other mission programs, and to view their online videos go to www.lwms.org.

Special thanks to Joyce Hinrichs who organized the rally. Attendees were treated to coffee and dessert in the church basement which had been decorated by volunteers of the Ladies' Aid. A business meeting followed Dr. Ryan's presentation. A new banner, made by Lake City church members, was handed over to a representative of Our Savior's church in Kasson who will be hosting the next rally. The previous banner was created by the Frontenac ladies in 1983.

#### Ascension Lutheran Church, Escondido, California

Nothing is a coincidence! Our Mission Journeys experience at Ascension Church in Escondido, California, attests to that. We had decided to engage the services of a ministry called Praise and Proclaim to train us in friendship evangelism and to help us canvass the neighborhoods around our church. At about that time, Dave Maines (from Praise and Proclaim) and Shannon Bohme (from Mission Journeys)



were talking about how their two groups could find opportunities to work together. We were the first congregation to be blessed with their combined effort. The Mission Journeys team from Resurrection and Life Lutheran Church in Rochester, Minnesota, was dynamite! They came with the servant attitude to do whatevery they could to assist us in our ministry. After training with Praise and Proclaim on Friday evening, we came back Saturday to begin knocking on doors. Our goal was to invite people to a Family Safety Night and look for opportunities to tell people what Jesus has done for them. Sine we are a very small congregation, having the Mission Journeys team with us made a huge difference. On that Saturday and in the days following, together with the efforts of the Mission Journeys team, we were able to knock on over 1000 doors. When my family and I arrived at Ascension in January 2018, it had been vacant for about one year. During that time, the elementary school had closed and a number of members had moved on. I knew it would be a different kind of ministry challenge than I had faced before. Sometimes in a location such as ours, people can feel as thought they are on an island, completely isolated. Hosting a Mission Journeys team reminded us that is not the case. We are all in this together. Working with Mission Journeys was a positive expression of the unity we share based on God's Word. What great encouragement for our members— and the team from Resurrection and Life. We could not have been blessed with a bettergroup! We pray that they take this experience back to Rochester and reach more people with the gospel in their own neighborhood. Since hosting a Mission Journeys team was such a positive experience for Ascension, some of our members have wondered about the possibility of serving on a Mission Journeys team themselves. I hope they do! If you wonder if it might be a good opportunity for you, I would encourage you to take the chance. It's a great way to be blessed and to be a blessing to another congregation. Pastor Jeffrey Duquaine

St. Croix Sunday at St. sociation of WELS congre-Peter's: On December 5, gations to provide Christhe Croixaliers, a traveling tian education on the choir from St. Croix Lu- High School and Middle theran Acadamy of West School level. There are St. Paul, and a guest Pas- currently three students tor from St. Croix, are from Grace and St. Pescheduled to lead wor- ter's who attend St. Croix. ship for the 10:45 a.m. Besides students from Service at St. Peter's. the area, St. Croix also There will be a door col- hosts a number of interlection for St. Croix. national students, some Those who'd like to hear of whom the Croixaliers are wel- brought to faith in Christ come to attend. St. Croix by God's working through Lutheran is run by an as- the ministry of St. Croix.

been

#### **COMING UP IN BIBLE CLASSES:**

Quilting Bible Study is on hold until January.

Men's Bible Breakfast next meets January 15 at St. John's, with Pastor Robbert Leading Class

No Saturday morning Women's Bible study is scheduled for December.

In Sunday Bible Class at Grace and St. Peter's, at whichever place where Pastor Weigand is up, he will continue the study on the Book of Romans; On the other Sundays at St. Peter's, Larry and Norrie will lead study from "The Wonders of God"; on the other Sundays at Grace, Darwyn Tri and Ben Raasch will take turns leading study, using lessons from "Grand Themes and Key Words of Scripture". There will not be Bible Study on Dec. 19 (Children's Christmas Programs), or December 26.



Members of St. Peter's. We are doing 18-20 Holiday gift bags and would like your pre-packaged boughten items dropped off in the kitchen at church by December 12. We

are also asking for your help to put the bags together following church on December 12. Thank You. Ronnelle Schulz





Hello, I hope you are doing well. I am Rachel Fritz, WELS member and part of the WELS/ELS Singles Facebook Group. "If you're single (unmarried, divorced, widowed) and looking to socialize, make friends, or enjoy fellowship with other singles who share your faith, we encourage you to join our Facebook group! Our group consists of over 500 members from around the world with ages ranging from 18-65+. We are an active group sharing Biblical encouragement, prayers, Lutheran memes, personal viictories, and good. Our page is full of discussion posts and we typically have a weekly video hangout on Sunday evenings. We'd love to have you join us.



The quilting group at St. Peters finished the fall session on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The picture shows the 10 various size quilts that were brought for the Goodhue County Christmas Project to be disbursed along with other donations they have received. Also, 7 quilts were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. Thank you to all who have participated in helping with this endeavor.

### Baptism in Grace's family

\_Wyatt William Groth born on November 12, 2020 was baptized on November 11, 2021. Parents of Wyatt are Anna and Aaron Groth and siblings are Emmett and Lincoln. Witnesses were Dave and Mary Post



#### **December 2021 Newsletter**

Jesus Lives! God is Awesome! Psalm 77:14 "You are the God who performs miracles."

Luke 2:13-14 speaks of heavenly praise - Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind." This must have been an impressive display seeing angels praising God for the salvation of mankind and for their love of God to say these amazing things! St. John's Lutheran School has been part of this praise for over 140 years! What a miracle of love from Jesus!

What a great time of the year to be reminded of our Savior's sacrifice! Isaiah 9:6 (EHV) says it all - For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

I will leave you with the words of a song that praises God. "It's About the Cross".

Verse 1:

It's not just about the manger
Where the baby lay
It's not all about the angels
Who sang for him that day
It's not just about the shepherds
Or the bright and shining star
It's not all about the wisemen
Who travelled from afar

It's about the cross
It's about my sin
It's about how Jesus came to be born once
So that we could be born again
It's about the stone
That was rolled away
So that you and I could have real life someday
It's about the cross
It's about the cross

Verse 2:

It's not just about the presents Underneath the tree It's not all about the feeling That the season brings to me

It's not just about coming home To be with those you love It's not all about the beauty In the snow I'm dreaming of

Repeat Chorus

The beginning of the story is wonderful and great But it's the ending that can save you and that's why we celebrate

It's about the cross It's about the cross.

In His Service,

Mr. Albert Karnopp



#### **December School Calendar**

12/7 8:30 Chapel

12/14 8:30 Chapel

12/16 Preschool Christmas Party

12/17 K-8 Christmas Party, Bowling

12/19 Day School Christmas Program

6:15pm Pre-service, 7pm start

12/20 - 12/31 NO SCHOOL

School resumes January 3, 2022







#### **SERVING AT ST. JOHNS IN DECEMBER**

Pastor Robbin Robbert

#### ST. JOHN'S ELDERS:

Tim Hinrichs, Jesse Luhman and Scott Hinsch

#### **ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL BOARD:**

Derek Weckerling, Jacob Diercks and Jonathon Voth

#### **USHERS**

Troy Hokanson, Gavin Hokanson, Kyler Hokanson, Mason Voth, Dave Voth, Kyle Voth, Ryan Voth, Dave Peterson, Jake Peterson, Darren Vieths, Mike Hinsch, Jacob Diercks, Ken Schrimpf, Wayne Schilling

#### **GREETERS**

12/5 Julia Bolin 12/12 John Augustine 12/19 Dorothy Lodermeier

12/25 Curtis & Marie Strusz

12/26 Dave & Joy Miller

#### SCRIP Order Due

December 10, 2021

Call or Text Brenda Luhman 507-202-6131

We are encouraging online purchases through Shop-WithScrip, PrestoPay and RaiseRight App

Or find a St. John's student to order from.

www.shopwithscrip.com Enrollment code: 7226178728187

Please contact us if you have questions or need help logging in.

Currently on hand - \$100 Walmart cards, \$100 Kwik Trip cards and \$25 Arby's Cards.





Our Sunday School group will celebrate the birth of Jesus with several songs on December 12th. Please join us after this Christmas Church service for a treat.

Services can be livestreamed or viewed later.



www.stjohnsgoodhue.com facebook @StJohnsGoodhue



E-GIVING NOW AT ST. JOHN'S -- Our congregation now offers electronic giving!

Go to easytithe.com/stjohnswels and follow the easy instructions to set up, or text GIVE and an amount to 1-218-304-7066 (ex: GIVE 250.00) and follow the easy directions.