

## OUR STAFF

Pastor: Marty Tyler  
revmltyler@yahoo.com

Admin. Asst: Karla Dillon  
secglc@yahoo.com

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Friday  
10:00 AM—3:00 PM

## WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays at 10:13 AM  
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays  
Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM



January 2024

# GRACE CONNECTION

## Grace EV. Lutheran Church

188 East Cooper Avenue  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
(707) 464-4712

[GraceLutheranCC.com](http://GraceLutheranCC.com)

*Our mission is to bring all people to faith in God through the good news of Jesus Christ and develop that faith through active fellowship.*

## SENT TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS

The season of Advent has provided opportunity for us to reflect on God's great love for us fallen sinners that has caused Him to send His very own Son Who came for the ungodly, even for those who will never acknowledge His sacrifice and who reject His free gift of salvation. Along with the joy that we have in our Savior, especially at this time of the celebration of Jesus' birth, the knowledge that not all experience this joy brings a sorrow to us as it does to the heart of our Lord.

Just as God in His love sent His Son into this world to save the lost, so we are now sent to tell others of that love. The shepherds at Jesus' birth did not hesitate to tell others. "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen..." (Luke 2:20). Like the shepherds, our joy and mission are to share the good news with all people that Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). By grace, we are invited to be participants who declare to the world how God has reconciled us to Himself through His Son. God makes His appeal to unbelievers through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we share the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth. We are to preach and teach the Word of God.

God calls us to share our faith and to let His light shine brightly. You and I have something to share that is needed by others, and that is the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, Who came

to us as a babe in a manger. In light of what Christ has done for us, we respond with a desire to serve and glorify Him. We are equipped and enabled by the Holy Spirit through His Word and Sacraments (2 Timothy 3:16-17) to be participants in His mission. We are the feet, eyes, ears, mouths, and hands who carry the message, who see the needs, who listen to the cries of those in need, who bring help to them, who tell them the message of reconciliation.

God's Word challenges us to use our time, talents, and money, so we can make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Because God is with us (Emmanuel) always, we can be faithful in our purpose to be God's participants in His mission to save all people.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and see Jesus as the reason for our joy not just one day a year, but every day. God's blessings during the remaining days of the Christmas season (The Twelve Days of Christmas) and throughout the coming New Year.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

*Pastor Marty*



## SWEET SUCCESS FOR LWML PIE SALE!

The LWML had a very successful pie sale with over \$7,000 in sales! The pie ladies devoted 20 days (310 hours) to making the delicious pies. It took 296 pounds of flour, 200 pounds of sugar, 132 pounds of Crisco and bushels and bushels of fruit to put the pies into the tins. Below is the list of mission distribution from the sales.

Net profit from 2023 PIE SALES ..... \$7,009.69

### Money in Reserve

Altar flowers for: EASTER, CHRISTMAS, LWML SUNDAY .....	\$600.00
LWML 2024 Convention Scholarships x 2 @ \$100 each.....	\$200.00
Memorial Bench Gene Rump .....	\$150.00
Quilter Supplies .....	\$500.00
Scholarships for higher education x 2 @ \$250 each.....	\$500.00
Start up cash for 2024 Pie Sale (Paid back after sale).....	\$450.00
Zone 13 Pro-rate and Quarterly Magazine .....	\$100.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

Reconciled to bank:..... \$8,600.16

**AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR MISSIONS..... \$6,100.16**

### MISSION GRANTS 2023

Coats for Kids--BiCoastal Media.....	\$500.00
Del Norte Literacy .....	\$100.00
Del Norte Senior Center.....	\$200.00
Food for the Poor.....	\$200.00
Harrington House.....	\$300.00
LCMS LWML Mites.....	\$1,000.00
Lutheran World Relief.....	\$1,000.00
Lutherans for Life .....	\$200.00
Orphan Grain Train.....	\$1,000.00
Pregnancy Care Center.....	\$200.00
Stephen's Pantry.....	\$300.00
Samaritan's Purse .....	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>

## REJOICE EXCEEDINGLY!

This is the Christmas season, and a small but important part of Jesus' birth is the visit of the wise men. Their visit is recorded in the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped Him. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (*Matthew 2:10-11*).

What did the wise men from the East know about this Baby or His family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor Him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. "They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy"

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before Him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the wise men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? Is it seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But do we rejoice exceedingly when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the entire focus for Christmas should be the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including visiting the sick and the shut-in, baking goodies for food banks, sharing financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the Cross. May God grant us the same determination and faith that the wise men had when they traveled to honor Jesus. Let us open our treasures and worship Him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.

As the Star of Bethlehem guided the wise men, may the light that is the Light of the world guide our thoughts, words, and actions now and in the New Year.

### Installation Service

Sunday, January 7 @ 10:15am

Come meet and pray for your newly elected church officers.



THE APOCALYPSE IS COMING!  
JOIN DAVID WILSON FOR A  
STUDY OF REVELATION

7-WEEK STUDY SATURDAYS AT 10AM

THE BOOK OF  
**REVELATION**

THE BOOK OF  
**JAMES**  
PRACTICAL FAITH  
**SUNDAYS at 9am**  
Begins January 7



JOIN US  
NEW  
VIDEO  
STUDY  
SUNDAYS  
9AM

New York Times Bestselling Author of  
Love Does, Everybody, Always and Dream Big  
**UN**  
Distracted  
Capture Your Purpose  
Rediscover Your Joy  
BOB GOFF

# THANK YOU!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A BLESSED EPIPHANY** to all God's precious families here at Grace! I hope that everyone's Christmas and New Year celebrations were filled with laughter and relaxation with family and friends. Debbie and I wish to tell you all how much we appreciated the many beautiful cards and thoughtful gifts we received.

And we especially want to thank the entire congregation for your very generous financial gift. It was very gracious of you, and once again we find ourselves humbled by your kindness. Our prayer is that the Lord will multiply His blessings on you throughout this New Year. May you see His hand of provision in your lives and sense the direction of the Holy Spirit in what you do. You are all very special to us and we believe that the Lord has good things in store for each of you.

Thank you again for thinking of us.  
We are genuinely blessed to be part of the Grace Family.

With joyous sincerity,

*Pastor Marty and Debbie*



## ALTAR FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE

Whether you wish to commemorate the life of a cherished individual, celebrate a milestone, or express gratitude for a special blessing, donating flowers to grace our altar is a touching and visually stunning way to share your sentiments with the entire congregation. It creates a collective experience, fostering a sense of community and connection among our members. Each arrangement becomes a symbol of the love and memories shared within our church family. As we embrace the spirit of giving and gratitude, let us come together to adorn our altar with the beauty of shared moments, both joyful and reflective. Your flowers will not only enhance our worship space but will also serve as a testament to the love and support that binds us as a community.

Reserve your date on the flower calendar located in the Social Hall. For additional information, please contact Karla in the church office or Susie Melvin.





**I can do all things through Christ  
who strengthens me.**

**Philippians 4:13**

## **EMBRACING NEW BEGINNINGS**

### **The Infinite Possibilities of the New Year**

As the clock strikes midnight and the calendar flips to a new year, there is a sense of hope and anticipation in the air. The New Year brings with it a clean slate, an opportunity for fresh starts, and a chance to embrace the possibilities that lie ahead.

Each new year is a reminder that no matter what challenges we faced in the past, we have the power to shape our future, to dream new dreams and draw nearer to the unwavering love of God. We are not defined by our past mistakes or setbacks. Instead, we are defined by our ability to learn, grow, and evolve with the love of God as our guiding light.

So, as we stand on the threshold of a new beginning, let us embrace the possibilities that the New Year offers, recognizing that our journey is intertwined with the love and power of God. Let us set our intentions ablaze, nurture our dreams with unwavering faith, and embark on this journey with open hearts and minds, knowing that with God's love, all things are possible.

*Karla Dillon*

# STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

## *Share God's Love*

Charlie Brown's young friend Linus made the mistake of confessing to his big sister Lucy that he wanted to be a doctor when he grew up. Lucy was astounded at her brother's declaration. "You, a doctor!" That's a laugh! You could never be a doctor! You know why? Because you don't love humankind!" Young Linus immediately responded, "I do love humankind! It's people I can't stand!"

Linus' comment may give us a chuckle. We find humor in it because we identify with Linus. Apart from the power of God's Spirit working in us, our love for others is weak and shallow at best. But God calls us to love all people and enables us to do so. Whether we are doctors, carpenters, policemen, teachers, secretaries, or plumbers, we are to love those with whom we work with as well as all people. God places us in different vocations where we can share God's love. We are His instruments through which He works. In his letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him" (1 Corinthians 7:17).

God has a purpose, a plan, in mind for each of us. Like Linus, one might consider being a doctor, but God may have a much different vocation in mind. No vocation is to be viewed higher or lower than another, and we are called, regardless of where we are placed by God, to let His love within us overflow to others.



**CARING for Caregivers**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 10th 10AM-2PM**

CNH District Office (2552 Constitution Ave., Livermore, CA)  
OR Virtually Via ZOOM » Cost: \$25 » Visit [www.CNH-LCMS.org](http://www.CNH-LCMS.org)

**The Path Not Chosen**  
Featuring Author Dr. Martha E. Garmon

A practical presentation geared towards church workers and lay leaders who encounter caregivers in their ministries and daily lives—pastors, teachers, DCE's, elders, health ministers, lay leaders, etc.

**CNH LCMS**

\*Featuring Author Dr. Martha Garmon

**When:** Saturday, February 10,

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Where:** CNH District Office or virtually via zoom

*(link will be provided later)*

Join us for "Caring for Caregivers," a special event tailored for Christians in ministry and daily life who encounter caregivers. Led by Dr. Martha Garmon, this presentation delves into the world of family caregivers, often unseen and isolated as they selflessly care for others. Gain insight into their perspective and discover simple yet impactful ways to offer support.

This session offers a unique opportunity to understand the needs of caregivers, engage in discussions, and explore available resources. Don't miss this chance to enrich your understanding and learn how to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who care for others.

## SEAFOOD SUNDAY

KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH  
GRACE'S FAMOUS FISH FRY!

January 7, 2024

Following the new officer  
installation service  
ALL ARE INVITED TO STAY &  
ENJOY!

A FREE-WILL OFFERING is encouraged  
to help offset the cost

YOU CAN HELP  
HUNGRY PEOPLE

## FOOD PANTRY

HERE ARE THE WAYS  
YOU CAN HELP

- VOLUNTEER ON A MONDAY, 2-4PM
- SHOP OR STOCK
- BE A BAGGER
- PICK UP FOOD DONATIONS



MORE INFO CONTACT JIM RAMSEY 707-464-7195

Grace Lutheran

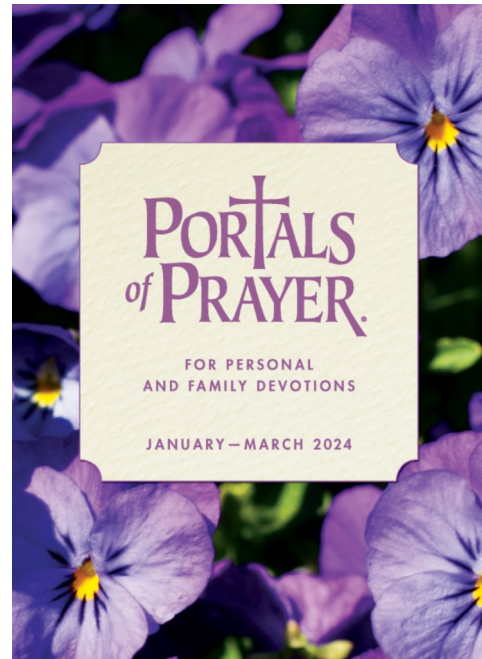


## JOIN GRACE BOOK CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. Upcoming meeting dates and books:

**January 11:**

*Come To The Edge - Arrival & Survival in  
Del Norte County* Edited by Ruth Rhodes



The new Portals of Prayer devotional booklets are available at the Help Desk or in the Social Hall. These booklets are a favorite of readers looking for ways to stay in God's Word with easy, daily devotions. Readings feature a Bible passage, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. It's a great way to start each day! Take an extra copy and give to a friend, co-worker or family member.



# Tithes & Offerings

**We thank you for your faithful support of Grace Ministries.**

Online giving/tithing is available. Safely and securely support the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church through VANCO, an online giving platform. You can check our church website for instructions under the GIVING tab, or contact Thomas Hutzell at (707) 218-7259.

- Weekly Giving Envelopes are available for 2023. If you do not already have envelopes assigned, please see Thom. Those already assigned envelopes will find them in their church mailbox.
- NOTE: Our Giving/Tithing Box is at the Usher's Stand inside the sanctuary. You can drop off your offerings before or after Worship each Sunday.
- Checks can also be mailed to Grace Lutheran Church, 188 E Cooper Ave, Crescent City, CA 95531

*"You should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cathan Perry	1/1
David Wilson	1/4
Margot Havens	1/4
Ashlie Reed	1/8
Taya Reed	1/8
Allison Restad	1/8
Shana Early	1/11
Michele Bradley	1/15
Diane Cochran-Wiese	1/17
Stevie Tardiff	1/20
Jill Cyr	1/22
Christopher Thorpe	1/22
Roman Restad	1/24
Lyon Perry	1/25
Victoria Lambson	1/27
Melanie Huie	1/31



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Patrick & Aile Reaneau	1/1	15 years
Dan & Lynn Mitchell	1/7	41 years
Jerry & Jaqueline Cochran	1/16	59 years
Bryan & Diana Stanley	1/17	43 years
Ray & Susie Melvin	1/18	56 years

