

GROWING IN *Grace*

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October 2024

The United in Grace Constitution and Bylaws Vote

**Sunday October 6th in the sanctuary following
the service.**

All who are present and are current active members will be able to vote

**Please come to vote as we begin this new journey together as God's beloved people,
at this Mission Outpost, United in Grace, here on South Lewis Street in Monroe, WA**

What began as a wondering in July of 2019 soon became an awareness that this was *more* than a just wondering. We soon understood this was a nudging and calling from The Holy Spirit. We have been faithful to this calling from God through The Holy Spirit. God has been faithful and clear that this is our new path together. We are on a journey with God into what I believe is God's preferred future for us.

Both congregations have a rich history which we will not forget and are now creating a new future together, new beginnings, new history, new traditions, together as one.

While the building on this site is 100 years old this year, *Monroe United Methodist Church* was the first church built in Monroe, Washington in 1896, 6 years before Monroe was incorporated as a city in 1902. This year is the 128th Anniversary of Monroe United Methodist Church.

On November 13th, 1994, a group of people gathered to form a new community of believers, a family of faith, a mission outpost in Monroe, Washington. One year later, on Sunday November 5th, 1995 this church and its people of *Morning Star Lutheran Church* became a formal congregation. This year will be the 29th Anniversary of Morning Star Lutheran Church.

We are now on the edge of a new threshold, a new beginning, and by the grace of God, in the year of our Lord, 2025, we will celebrate the birth of United in Grace as a Mission Outpost of Love, Grace, Mercy, Forgiveness, Peace, Healing, and Hope for our community and neighbors.

We will together experience the work of creating a new story of *US*. We will be creating new traditions with new experiences by adapting and transforming new ways out of our old ways as we are understanding that in this work, in this place in 2024, we too must let go of some of the old that we hold so dear in order for new life and experiences to burst forth. As United in Grace, we are called to be reborn and be faithful servants and disciples in this new calling of the Holy Spirit to formally become one in the Body of Christ here in Monroe.

I thank God when I think of you and our work together to become Disciples of Christ and that I have you to serve with as co-workers in our mission to follow God into our neighborhoods, and the community of Monroe and our world.

As we continue to listen to the nudging's of the Holy Spirit and are in prayerful discernment of the God's preferred future for us, we will learn to adapt and transform to become new creations as faithful servants and disciples in and for today's world in this time and in our place.

See you in church!

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Malcolm



Happy Reformation Sunday!
October 27, 2024
Remember to wear RED!



In the past for many years, MUMC put on Trunk~or~Treat and the Great Hot Dog Give Away for the neighborhood kids and families, along with our Faith Choices partner churches - Morning Star Lutheran, The Congregational and the Episcopal on Lewis street. While Covid and our church closure stopped this event for many years, when Pr. Jane of the Congregational church contacted Pr. Malcolm to see if United in Grace might be doing anything for Halloween, it seemed like the perfect time and opportunity for a show of **Radical Hospitality** from the new United in Grace to the neighborhood.

I am organizing the 2024 **“Great Hotdog Giveaway”** to the neighborhood families who have previously come by the hundreds to trick or treat along Lewis Street and enjoy what we give out – to some this is their only dinner meal, so it’s a mission as well. The plan is to cook and serve 300 hotdogs with condiments and cider and coffee and pass them out, hopefully in costume, under the tent in front of the church as in years past, on Thursday, Halloween night, October 31st from 5 to 6:30 or until the hotdogs are gone. It’s a great way to reintroduce ourselves to the community and let them know what a fun group we are, while providing food and maybe some additional Halloween treats as we get to meet all the costumed kids and parents who come to celebrate!



So who’s in with me?? If you would like to volunteer to help set up, prepare the dogs and drinks in the kitchen, serve to the trick or treaters as they come by, or donate hot dogs, buns, bottles of cider or wrapped candy to pass out, please sign up on the sheet that will be in the Narthex at church.

You are also welcome to decorate your car on your own and pass out candy in the true trunk-or-treat style if you wish. It’s a chance to dress up, meet the neighbors, have some fun, see all those darling kids dressed up in costumes and show our community that God’s love for them can sometimes come wrapped in a bun and covered with mustard and ketchup!

Hope you will join me! 😊

Nancy Franke

GET CONNECTED – FELLOWSHIP, STUDY, AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



Jesus & Java

Every Sunday, we read a portion of scripture: a Psalm, a New Testament reading and a gospel. The sermon is usually based on the gospel. Have you ever wondered who decides what scripture to read and when? The readings are based on a schedule called the Lectionary. This is a three-year cycle. We are in Year B. The Lectionary includes an Old Testament reading as well.

For our next Sunday School series beginning October 20th (we will be taking Sunday the 13th off) we'll be reading and discussing these Lectionary scriptures to take our worship experience to a deeper level.

Bring your beverage of choice and join us at 8:15am in the Fellowship Hall for an exploration of these scriptures. If you have any questions, please let Jasmine know.

United Women in Grace

The United Women in Grace Tea was a great success. Let's keep the momentum going with our October meeting!



United Women in Grace is an opportunity for the women of Monroe United Methodist and Morning Star Lutheran churches come together to share our blessings as women of God. Join us for fellowship as we prepare items for the Christmas Bazaar. You don't have to be crafty just come and have fun with the other women of United in Grace!

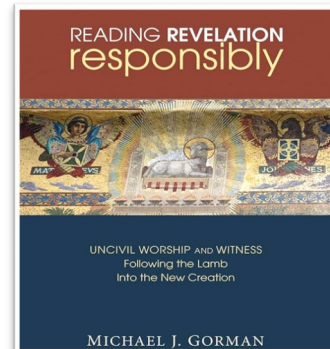
We're meeting Saturday, October 12th at 9am in the Fellowship Hall.

October's Books - TV - Movies! Tuesday the 17th at 6:30pm Host - Allene Zanger



Everyone is welcome to join the discussion, enjoy the food and drink, and be part of a community of like-minded books, tv & movies lovers! You'll find Allene's address in the directory.

BIBLE NERDS: "READING REVELATION RESPONSIBLY"



Bible Nerds will continue it's study, meeting every other Wednesday night. Shared supper at 6pm; study begins at 6:30.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS FOR OUR MINISTRIES

BROWN BAG SUNDAY — OCTOBER 13

HAZEL'S LITTLE FREE PANTRY SUNDAY — OCTOBER 27

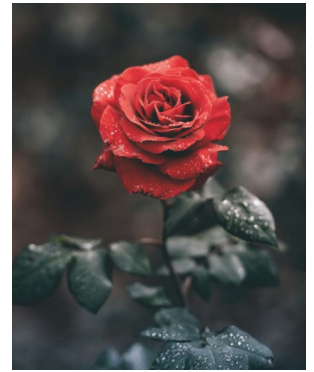


Special emphasis is given and financial offerings are accepted for these important ministries. Specially marked envelopes are found in the backs of the pews and on the Greeters desk on Sunday morning.



Beloved

Do you ever just feel tired? Does life feel challenging? Do you struggle and toil? God has an answer: **Matthew 11:28-30** **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”** Have you ever read these verses and think, “YES! That’s what I want! I want to rest in the Lord!



Sometimes we get so wrapped up in living our lives, we forget to tap into the power of God to renew our strength. We forget that we have a mighty God on our side, and He is offering us a world of love and peace. We just need to turn to Him! God is gentle with us. He wants to use us to share the WORD, but He promises He will give us the power to do everything He calls us to do.


As we live our lives yoked to seeking wealth, yoked to power, yoked to independence, we are reminded of the love and attention the Lord spends on His creation. God’s yoke comes with a promise: when we love God with all our heart, He blesses us. We don’t earn this favor but receive the blessing. God wants our love but offers so much more than just blessings. He desires a relationship with His children. He wants us to share our joys and sorrows with Him. When we do this, we can see God at work. We can see His mercy. We can see His favor. We can draw closer to the creator when we realize we are His creation, His beloved.

Jasmine Ray-Symms

www.jasmineraysymms.com

Photo by [ameenfahmy](#) on [Unsplash](#)



<p>From Empathy to ACTION Supporting Transgender & Gender Expansive Youth</p>	<p>Saturday, October 19th, 9:00—11:00 AM</p>
 <p>Jamie Bruesehoff</p>	<p>Rooted in her personal experience, Jamie will discuss the joys and challenges of raising a transgender child in a world that’s often unprepared. Despite high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among these youth, support and affirmation significantly reduce those risks. What does that support look like? How can parents, family, educators, faith leaders, and community members provide it? Jamie will inspire and equip us to better support the young people in our lives and community.</p> <p>Cost: \$25 Book Signing and Author Conversation at 4pm</p>

OCTOBER SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Thank you for serving. You are an indispensable part of the body of Christ and we thank you.

	OCTOBER 6	OCTOBER 13	OCTOBER 20	OCTOBER 27
Worship Asst.	Nancy Franke	Christine Coco		Missy Maxson
Greeters	Joel & JoLynn Garrison	Denny & Diana Coates	Allene Zanger Rob Williams	Valarie & Perry Cole
Ushers	Joel & JoLynn Garrison	Denny & Diana Coates		Valarie & Perry Cole
Acolyte	Ben Ault	Ric Hart		Ric Hart
Reader	Joel Garrison	Ben Ault	Missy Maxson	Ric Hart
Comm. Prep.	Susan Slate		Harriet Barr	JoLynn Garrison
Serve Comm.	Christine & Zak Coco	Nancy Franke	Ben & Kaitlyn Ault	Joel & JoLynn Garrison
Coffee Hour	Priscilla High	Missy Maxson	Pamela Gore	Allene Zanger Rob Williams
Altar Flowers	Jill Sumpter			Jill Sumpter
Soundboard	Kathi Cooley	Charlie Brown	Kathi Cooley	Charlie Brown

October Birthday & Anniversary* Celebrations

- 02 Sherry Carrol
- 04 Velma Smith
- 07 Chris Cooper
- 16 Loggan Coco-Cron
- 21 Brian & Lori Johnson *
- 28 Katrina Chaney
- 28 Dennis & Susanne Olson *

CHURCH ATTENDANCE
SEPTEMBER 2024
In Person: 33 Online: 10

HURRICANE HELENE — HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are several ways to help those affected by Hurricane Helene. Listed below are only two of the ways you can give that will greatly help those in need.

Lutheran Disaster Response: Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip them to respond to Hurricane Helene and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike.

Your gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response help provide immediate relief, such as water, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care. <https://give.elca.org/page/68904/donate/1>

UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery: UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on its own.

Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR’s US disaster training and response.

When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters.

<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670/>



October

From **The Spirit**, a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA.

From the Bishop:

It sometimes comes as a surprise to people, but the Northwest Washington Synod is a companion synod with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia (ELCER). For several years many of our congregations – at one time almost twenty – were connected to Lutheran congregations in Russia to share ideas, fund certain projects, learn about one another, and, most importantly, build relationships with our Lutheran siblings in Russia. Unfortunately, many of these relationships have faltered or broken down in the last few years. However, recently I was fortunate to meet up with some of our Russian Lutheran siblings and I am excited about new possibilities and new relationships.

Before I tell you about my recent trip, let me first give you some history about the Lutheran Church in Russia. Since the Protestant Reformation, there has been a Lutheran Church in Russia. While we often think that Russia only has Orthodox churches, it is interesting to note that Lutherans have persevered and endured for over 500 years in Russia – through different czars, wars, persecution as a minority church, the Soviet Union, and more - dedicated to sharing the good news of Jesus with all.

Today there are three Russian Lutheran Synods who have ELCA companion synods: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (ELCIR) – companion synod Northeastern Minnesota, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East (ELCUSFE) – companion synod Central States, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia (ELCER) – companion synod Northwest Washington.

Our companion synod, ELCER, is located primarily in St. Petersburg and Moscow along with other areas around these cities. In the recent history of ELCER, Bishop and Archbishop Dietrich Brauer had to move with his family from Russia to Germany for safety after speaking against the war when Russia invaded Ukraine. Following this, the ELCER then elected a new bishop. He sadly died a few months after taking office. The ELCER then elected another new bishop and archbishop in 2023. The new bishop is Bishop Sergei Holzwert and the Archbishop is Vladimir Provorov.

Because we in the ELCA are dedicated to renewing our relationship with our Russian Lutheran siblings, and because we are unable to travel to each other's country right now due to the war in Ukraine, it was arranged that representatives from ELCA Churchwide, the three Russian synods, and the three ELCA synods would meet in a neutral country. We were blessed to have twenty of us together from the ELCA and the Russian synods gather in September 2024 to build relationships, share ideas, and worship together in Novi Sad, Serbia. It was such a blessing to be in Novi Sad with Pastor Hector

Garfias-Toledo and Ms. Mary Muller representing the NWWA Synod and to be with Bishop Sergei Holzwert, Archbishop Vladimir Provorov, and Pastor Ivan Shirokov representing the ELCER.



We learned from our brothers that it has been difficult these last few years. The isolation they feel from the rest of the world is hard. They also have political division in their congregations as well as a shortage of pastors. It has also been a meaningful and joyful

time. They were excited to share that many people have joined the church during these difficult years. As we shared our hopes and dreams we together talked about how to have more youth involved, how to do more lay ministry, and what are some educational opportunities. It was a full and rich conversation as we each shared and listened to one another.

After learning and discussing, and after beginning to rebuild relationships, we ended our time committing ourselves to these next steps:

- Establishing/renewing our covenant with one another
- Establishing a communication committee that will meet regularly with one another
- Have both parties feel that they are part of the universal church
- Share experiences in social programs
- Have a gathering of youth from both synods – perhaps meet in Georgia (the country)
- Collaborate on lay ministry and what lay ministry looks like in both sites
- Have a Zoom in the next two months to continue to build relationships
- Have youth involvement in all of these things

I am excited about the possibilities before us as we live into being the body of Christ together. If you would like to hear more about this trip and ways to be involved, you are invited to come to the next meeting with the NWWA Russian Team on Saturday, October 12 at 1 PM at Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood. We hope you can come.

As we read on the ELCA website regarding being a companion synod:

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. Companion church relationships enrich and deepen our ministries by exposing us to global challenges and perspectives as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and the world.

May it be so through the Holy Spirit.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org

OCTOBER 2024 - MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August Treasurer's Report for MUMC

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 3,168.92	\$38,034.12
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	- \$ 8,358.05	\$68,749.94
TOTAL SHORTFALL	- \$ 5,189.13	-\$30,715.82

**** Correction from September report:**

The disbursement from our Cash Reserve Loan Investment Fund was \$19,000, not \$1,900 as reported last month. This leaves a balance of \$564.45 in the Cash Reserve Loan Investment Fund.

2024 MUMC LAY LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees Chairman
Ric Hart 360-794-7772
 Treasurer
Tanya Hubbard 360-793-8959
 Financial Secretary
Nancy Franke 360-794-6954
 Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Nancy Franke—temporary
 Membership Secretary
Kathi Cooley 425-293-8694
 Lay Leader to Annual Conference
Jasmine Ray-Symms 425-223-9866
 UWG President
Jasmine Ray-Symms 425-223-9866
 Recording Secretary
 vacant

OCTOBER 2024 - MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 NON-DESIGNATED OFFERINGS AND EXPENSES

	2024 Budget	June Actual	July Actual	August Actual
Offerings	\$ 8,917	\$ 6,319	\$ 6,979	\$ 5,832
Expenses	\$10,384	\$ 7,294	\$ 9,847	\$ 8,008
Surplus/deficit		- \$ 975	- \$ 2,868	- \$ 2,176

2024 MSLC COUNCIL

Treasurer:
Brian Johnson 425-503-8352
 Community Relations:
Kathleen Sallee 425-387-2638
 Worship:
Kathi Cooley 425-293-8694





October 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2 12pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall	3 7pm Sky Per. Arts Fellowship Hall	4 10-2pm Kitchen Clean-up	5 9am Sacred Spaces
6 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 8:15 Jesus & Java 9:15 Choir 10 Worship 11 Congregation Meeting	7	8	9 12pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall 6pm Bible Nerds Fellowship Hall	10 7pm Sky Per. Arts Fellowship Hall	11	12 9am Roots & Wings 9am United Women in Grace Fellowship Hall
13 <i>Brown Bag Sunday</i> 8:15 Jesus & Java 9:15 Choir 10 Worship 11 UMC Charge Conference	14	15 6:30 pm Books, TV & Movies	16 12pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall	17 7pm Sky Per. Arts Fellowship Hall	18	19
20 8:15 Jesus & Java 9:15 Choir 10 Worship	21	22	23 12pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall 6pm Bible Nerds Fellowship Hall	24 7pm Sky Per. Arts Fellowship Hall	25	26 10am Grace in the Wild Al Borlin Park
27 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> <i>Little Pantry Sunday</i> 8:15 Jesus & Java 9:15 Choir 10 Worship	28	29	30 12pm Refit Class Fellowship Hall	31 5pm Trunk or Treat 7pm Sky Per. Arts Fellowship Hall		



LOOKING AHEAD THIS MONTH:

- * **Jesus & Java**
Sunday mornings at 8:15
- * **Congregation Meeting**
Sunday the 6th after the service
- * **Bible Nerds**
Wednesday's the 9th and 23rd
- * **UMC Charge Conference**
Sunday the 13th after the service
- * **United Women in Grace**
Saturday the 12th at 9am
- * **Books, TV, & Movies**
Tuesday the 15th at 6:30pm
- * **Grace in the Wild**
Saturday the 26th at 10am

October 6: 19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ Scripture: Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
October 13: 20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ Scripture: Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
October 20: 21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ Scripture: Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
October 27: Reformation Sunday ~ Scripture: Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

CONTACT US:

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**10:00 SUNDAY MORNINGS IN-
PERSON AND LIVE STREAMED**



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