



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

APRIL 2024

Pastor's Ponderings



Happy Easter! As we celebrated Easter Sunday, we were reminded that Easter isn't just a day – it's a whole season, 7 weeks long, when we're reminded of the joy and life that Jesus brings us through his resurrection.

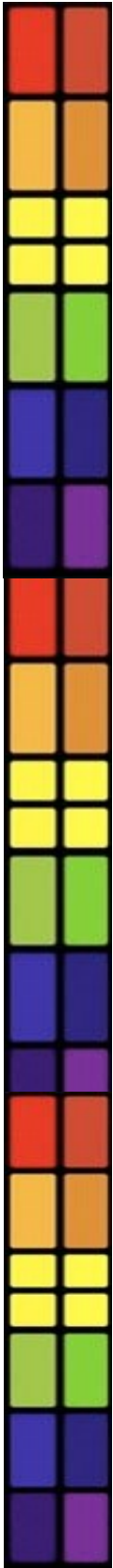
As many of you know, after serving here at Grace for 7 years, I'm going to be on Sabbatical this summer. I'm blessed and humbled by this opportunity, as well as by the Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant we were given to support my sabbatical plans and to support Grace during our sabbatical summer. While I'm the one who will be away, instead of thinking about this as my summer of renewal and reflection, I want us to think about this as our summer of renewal and reflection, for Grace and for myself. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on who we are as people of God and as the community of Grace. How has God worked through us in the past few years? How is God calling us to serve in the future?

I've got a wonderful Sabbatical Team who helped with my grant application and will help shape this summer of renewal and reflection for Grace. Together, we created themes for each month of my Sabbatical – Recreation, Engagement, and Reflection. Those themes will be paralleled by the activities here at Grace, and the Sabbatical Team will be working on that. I want to share part of what they wrote on the grant application to express how this will be a shared experience:

The congregation will participate in a parallel program of Recreation, Engagement, and Reflection. The benefits of the sabbatical leave should be readily apparent to all of us. By summer's end, when Pastor Jelinek returns to Grace to resume her pastoral roles, we will surely find her renewed and refreshed (and ready once again to cook for us and to offer us thoughtful new dramatic skits to stimulate our worship experiences); likewise, she will find us prepared to eat, engage, and reflect as we go forward together in Christ as a revitalized church family.

Members of the Sabbatical Team are Pat Hall, Bob Koepp, Marcia Sivesind, Shauna Thayer, and Kris Tobias. Also, while I'm away, you'll be lovingly served by Pastors Loren and Linda Schumacher, wonderful bridge pastors who are very familiar with the Cambridge area. Next month, I'll share more about them and about what's coming this summer.

In Christ,
+ *Pastor Jennifer*



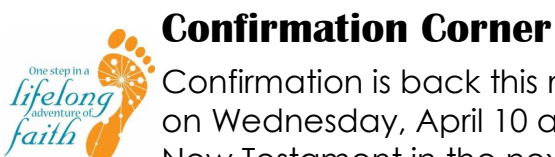


Holy Humor Sunday – April 7th

Holy Humor Sunday's almost here! Join us the 2nd Sunday of Easter for our annual celebration of joy and laughter, laughing at Jesus' defeat of death at his resurrection. Want to share a joke or funny story? You can either share it yourself on April 7, write it down at church, or send it to Pastor Jennifer by April 3rd. And if you feel like wearing something goofy to worship that day, we'd love it!

Congregational Meeting – April 7th

At our Annual Meeting in January, we talked about the possibility of adding automatic openers to the front doors of the building, for better handicap accessibility. After a great deal of work and research, our Property Committee is recommending that we replace the front exterior doors and include an automatic opener for both the front exterior and interior door. In order to begin this project, we need to have a Congregational Meeting to approve it, along with the bid. Please join us for this Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 7 at 10 am., immediately following worship. You'll be able to hear about this project, ask questions, and vote on whether or not to approve it. Please plan to attend this brief meeting.



Confirmation Corner

Confirmation is back this month. Mentor Night is April 3 at 6:30 p.m. Class returns on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30. We look forward to finishing up our study of the New Testament in the next month.

New Member Gathering

Are you interested in joining Grace, or do you know somebody who's interested? There will be a gathering for potential New Members on Sunday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m. We'll spend time getting to know one another and learning more about the ministries of Grace. Planning on coming? Please let Pastor Jennifer know. If you're interested in joining but can't come on the 21st, please let Pastor Jennifer know that as well. 608-295-7120 or pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com

Want to worship from home? Here's how!

You may have noticed that there have been broadcast issues on Spectrum cable channel 987 lately. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>

Monday Night Study



“The Chosen” Study is back! This month, we’ll finish up Season 3 and anxiously await Season 4’s digital release, hopefully this fall.

April 8 – Intensity in Tent City

April 15 – Ears to Hear

April 22 – Sustenance

Summer Rummage Sale



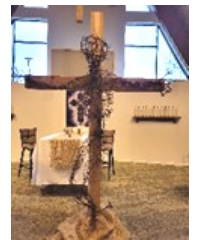
Please think about the Church Rummage Sale as you’re doing your Spring Cleaning. You may bring all great quality items to the designated room in the church basement beginning July 1. The rummage sale will take place the first weekend in August. If you have big items and need assistance please contact Tami Collin at

920-728-8047.

You are Appreciated!



Thank you to Wendy Lehr for cleaning out the flower beds and the church yard. Thank you to Hospitality Committee and all who helped set up for Soup Suppers, and to all of those who brought soup, served, and cleaned up during Lent.



A big thank you to Neil Johnson for designing and building a new cross and stand for us to use on Good Friday. It’s beautiful! And thank you to Ralph and Vicki Vernig for their donation of the wood for the cross.



Thank you to all of our wonderful actors who brought the characters to life in our Lent drama, “In Jesus Wake”



Pastoral Acts

Baptism - March 22 Kennedy Rae Perry, daughter of Nathan & Nicole Perry.

APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
31 EASTER SUNDAY 7 am Worship SERVICE 9 am Worship SERVICE Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	1 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am Quilters	2	3 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	4 10 am Staff Mtg	5	6
7 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10 am Congregational Mtg 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	8 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Chosen Study	9	10 9 am Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Confirmation	11	12	13
14 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15am Sanctuary Choir 11 am Youth Gathering Mtg	15 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Chosen Study	16 7pm Grace Council Mtg	17 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation Newsletter content due	18	19 Wedding Rehearsal	20 2pm Kilburg wedding
21 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir 11am New Member Mtg	22 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Chosen Study	23	24 6:30 pm Confirmation	25	26	27
28 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	29 9:30 am Quilters	30	1 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	2	3 6pm Piano Recital	4

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



RISEN: Glow in the Dark Easter Eggstravaganza!

In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life." Throughout Easter, we celebrate the life that Jesus brings through his death and resurrection. On March 17th, our kids learned more about how Jesus is the Light at our Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt!



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Do you have insurance or investments through Thrivent Financial? Each year, Thrivent members are invited to designate their "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to a charity of their choice. If you aren't currently designating your Choice Dollars, feel free to designate them to be sent to Grace. And don't forget that you've got the ability to apply for 2 \$250 Thrivent grants a year to help support various community projects. If you need ideas of how to use those grants, just reach out to Pastor Jennifer.

2024 Lenten Challenge

This year's Lenten Challenge was the ELCA's AMMPARO project (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). AMMPARO's mission includes providing aide to people coming to the United States who are fleeing crime and violence, extreme poverty, environmental displacement, and lack of opportunities. More than half of them are now from countries outside of the Americas. AMMPARO assists new migrants arriving here, and also those who have been deported after years in the US, providing job training once back in their home country.



Thanks to your generosity, we exceeded our Lenten goal to raise \$2000 before Easter! Monies raised will go directly to AMMPARO to help fund their programs.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalms 46:1
"..for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Matthew 25:35.

Got Sheets or Fabric?

Grace Quilters are in great need of clean, stain-free, cotton sheets. Please consider donating sheets by bringing them to the church office.

Any sewers who have unused fabric around, please consider donating to Grace. Monetary donations are also always welcome. Donations can also be dropped off at the church office.



CART Needs YOU!

If you're looking for volunteer opportunities or interested in donating to our local food pantry, we can help!

There is a donation drop box outside of the food pantry for donated items. For large donations, volunteer opportunities, or monetary donations, please contact the food pantry at 608.423.8142 or visit <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2024

(Minutes will be reviewed & approved at next Council meeting)

Call to Order. President Kelly Witte called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Attendance. Present: Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Connie Kreuser, Charlene Luchterhand, April Mickelson, Peggy Punsel, Kristin Rue, Richard Scott, Amy Simdon, Shawn Whitman, Kelly Witte. **Absent:** Sandi Aston Hall, John Jensen, Bob Koepp

Devotions. Amy shared devotions.

Approval Minutes. Peggy moved and Amy seconded a motion to add the topic of Cambridge High School T-shirt Sponsorship Request to New Business. Amended agenda unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda. Several people suggested additions or slight revisions: 1) Add Pr. Jennifer's sabbatical to Old Business. 2) Add the need for a change in signers on bank accounts and the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to New Business. 3) Move the topic of a pollinator garden earlier in the meeting to allow the participating non-Council member to leave after her presentation. Peggy Punsel moved and Sandi Aston Hall seconded a motion to approve the amended agenda. Motion unanimously approved.

Correspondence. None.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) \$7500 was placed in a 7-month CD. We had a net loss of \$6,657 in February, mainly due to sabbatical expenses. Our year-to-date (YTD) General Giving at the end of February was \$9,049 higher than 2023 and \$4,300 over the YTD budget. YTD Special Giving was \$282 more than last year and almost \$600 more than the monthly budget. YTD expenses were \$14,775 more than last year and just over \$1,100 over our budget. The biggest jump in expenses was due to those paid for Pastor's upcoming sabbatical (\$9,290) with these funds coming from her sabbatical grant. YTD net ordinary income would be about \$9,880 if we didn't include the sabbatical grant or expenses, about \$4,800 more than last year at the end of February. The checking balance decreased by almost \$6,200 with the general fund balance staying flat. Char moved to approve this report and send it to audit. Kristin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. (Pr. Jennifer) Lent is moving along as planned. As usual, there will be an ecumenical service in the park on Good Friday at noon. We no longer have the cross used in that service and in our chancel. Neil Johnson has built a new one, which can be more readily held in place and stored. Pastor will be attending the Institute of Liturgical Studies conference at Valparaiso University on April 9-11. Shauna Thayer has been added to the sabbatical team. Meetings will begin shortly. We are down to the wire with fund-raising for the youth gathering beginning July 15 in New Orleans. Six youth plan to attend.

Committee Reports. (Provided in writing and/or discussed in the meeting as needed.)

- **Education.** (Kristin) See New Business.

Outreach & Social Justice. (April) With donations totaling \$867.50, we are almost halfway to reaching our Lenten challenge goal of \$2000 designated for the ELCA's AMMPARO initiative, which provides a caring presence and assistance to migrants.

Property. (Richard) See "Front Door Bids" in Old Business.

Stewardship. (Connie) Committee chairs are encouraged to review time/talent surveys for new members. And members are encouraged to contact committee chairs if interested, but not contacted. Also see "Pollinator Garden" in Old Business.

Worship. (Sandi) Holy week worship service times: Palm Sunday 9:00 AM , Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM, Good Friday 7:00 PM Tenebrae, Easter 7:00 AM & 9:00 AM. Easter flowers can be ordered through 3/13. Easter decorating will occur the Saturday prior.

Old Business.

- **Front Door** - Richard, along with John Jensen and Dale Klemp, sought 3 bids. They recommend accepting the bid from Jefferson Glass totaling \$16,260, citing a combination of cost and responsiveness of the company for their decision. There are two components: 1) the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant doors and 2) the automatic openers. Jefferson Glass will do all work except needed wiring. We will be able to continue using our current keys. Council discussed optimal placement of automatic openers. Council members are excited about this planned welcoming and functional improvement to our building. Amy moved to accept the bid and take the issue to the congregation for approval. April seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Char moved to call a brief congregational meeting following the April 7 worship service. Kristin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- **Pollinator Garden.** Stewardship Committee member Mary Bielefeldt provided an update, as we viewed sites. Diggers Hotline inspected both proposed locations. The site near the road was not selected because of buried utility lines and tree roots. The project will move forward in the site on the north side of the church where the large windows are located. The garden will be moved slightly west from the current stakes, anticipating the shade that will be provided by the future growth of the evergreen tree. The garden will be re-staked and Diggers Hotline contacted again closer to the time planting will occur.

New Business.

Easter Sunday School/Community Event. (Kristin) The Easter egg hunt occurring this coming Sunday was originally planned as a community event. Because that is also spring break for local schools, the community aspect will be postponed until next year. This event therefore will be for our own church youth, with other children welcome if they happen to come. Hospitality Committee (Peggy and family) will provide a small lunch for participating kids at 11:30 AM.

Insurance Policy. (Kristin) Our Church Mutual Insurance Company policy expires on 6-2-24. The current policy allows us to offer one off-site event (e.g., vacation Bible school) per year. If we want to offer more events off-site, we will need additional insurance coverage. We need to seek additional information from the company regarding what constitutes "one off-site event." For example, is a multi-day program considered one event? Or is each day considered a separate event? It was suggested that Catherine Elliott and/or Brea Klemp could explore this further.

Cambridge High School T-shirt Sponsorship Request. (Pastor) Council chose not to provide funds to sponsor t-shirts as part of the fall sports season at the high school.

Adjournment. Amy moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting. Our next meeting will be held one week later than usual (so Pastor can attend) on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM. April will present devotions.

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand , Council Secretary

From the Treasurer

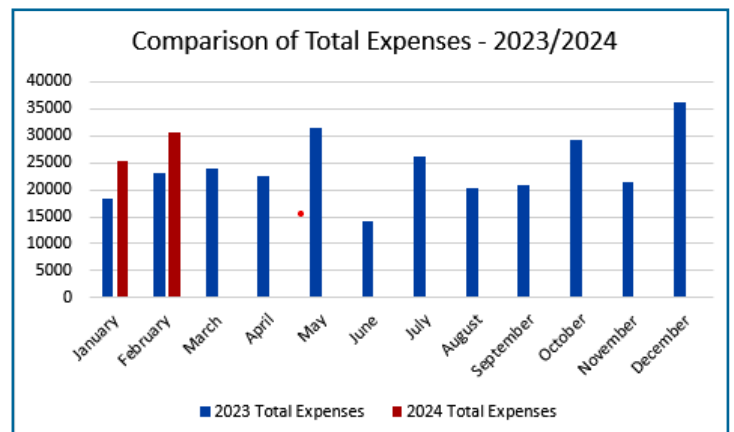
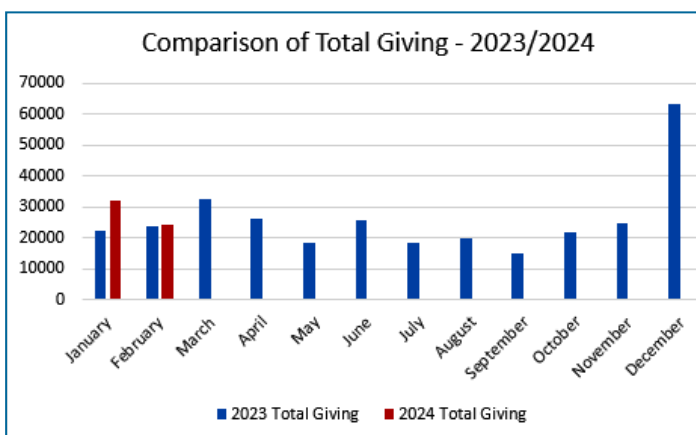
February 2024 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date February 2024 Actual	Year-to-date 2024 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	52,347	46,000	6,347
Special Giving	3,919	3,333	586
Sabbatical Giving	30,950	30,950	-
Misc Income	489	550	(61)
Total Income	87,706	80,833	6,872
Expenses			
Administrative	15,958	17,895	(1,937)
Mission	8,246	7,167	1,079
Pastoral	30,206	28,244	1,962
Program	1,756	1,737	20
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	56,166	55,042	1,124
Total Net Income	31,540	25,792	5,748

Thank you for your generous giving. Please remember that in addition to the Sunday service, you can give online through Vanco <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YYN7> or through Venmo, using the QR code.



venmo





Staff and Council



STAFF

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Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com

Financial Secretary Diane Russo Cell: (847) 826-0131 gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com

Organist Kenneth Hoversten kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

COUNCIL

President Kelly Witte

Vice President Bob Koepf

Secretary Char Luchterhand

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Kristin Rue

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

Evangelism Shawn Whitman

Worship Sandi Aston Hall

Property John Jensen &

Richard Scott



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