



Good News of Grace



May 2023

Grace Lutheran Church
303 Green Bay Road
Thiensville, WI 53092

www.grace53092.org
262-242-1174

"Reaching out to all people as Disciples of Christ, we serve God, proclaim our faith and care for all creation."

May Highlights

May 1 - Pr. Bill's Sabbatical begins

Please keep Pr. Bill in your prayers as he begins his professional development sabbatical.



May 7 - 10:15am Final Day of Sunday School

Grace Kids, join us for Sunday School on April 23 at 10:15am following worship.

May 10 - Blood Drive

You still have the opportunity to sign up to donate blood on May 10. Please visit <https://bit.ly/DonateBloodatGrace> (case sensitive) to schedule your donation time. We ask that you please sign up in advance. See Anna Martin if you have any questions about the drive. Let's fill the schedule! Thank you for helping save lives!



May 21—10:15am Grace Kids Celebration

Grace Kids please join us for an end of the school year celebration after worship.



A Message from the Pastor

By Pr. Bill Beyer

"I am the one who has seen affliction because of the rod of wrath. He has driven me and made me walk in darkness and not in light." - Lamentations 3:1-2

(Cont'd on p. 2)

Worship and Education

Worship Schedule:

Sunday at 9am

Tuesday Devotional at 12:10pm

Education:

Bible Study on Thursday 12pm

Grace's Welcome Statement

Grace Lutheran Church is a religious community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Grace is a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, which means we welcome the participation of people of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, education backgrounds, and economic conditions – all who want to join us in serving God, proclaiming our faith, and caring for all creation.

Grace Lutheran Staff

Tel: 262-242-1174

Website: www.grace53092.org

Pr. Bill Beyer

Cell: 262-674-4714

Email: wcbeyer1965@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Sandy Luetngen

Email: padmin@grace53092.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-2pm

Music Coordinator: Brian Dearing

Nursery Attendant: Shonda Schaff

Custodian: Fred Lynk

A Message from the Pastor (cont'd) and 2023 Leaders

(Cont'd from p.1)

The story of scripture is the story of God and God's relationship to the people of Israel. The scriptures are also the story of trauma. We see trauma in Genesis 3 with the expulsion of the humans from the garden. We see trauma in the story of the Exodus and the exiles. We also see trauma at the cross.

All the way through the story of scripture we see the thread of trauma running through the words and pages. That is not because God is the purveyor of trauma, but because trauma is a part of our human experience. We humans live in a broken world riddled with sin. With that context trauma is inevitable.

Trauma has a couple of definitions. The definition I find most helpful comes from the Center for Health Care Strategies. They define trauma as a "result from exposure to an incident or series of events that is emotionally disturbing or life threatening..". Understanding this definition brings to us the realization that we have all experienced trauma.

Even though we share the common thread of trauma in our lives, we often times do not deal with our trauma in healthy and productive ways. This can lead to all kinds of mental health crises in our lives and the lives of the people around us. Dealing with trauma effectively can bring a sense of peace and comfort to our lives.

Over the course of the last three years we as a collective of humans have experienced a global trauma. And unfortunately, all seven billion of us dealt with the trauma in different ways. But, COVID aside, we all deal with trauma in our lives and how we deal with that trauma can make a difference in how we survive and thrive after.

As I was investigating my study focus for the sabbatical, trauma kept coming up again and again. Especially when meditation and mindfulness are used as effective treatments for trauma. While examining my own traumas I can see how the effects have made their way into all areas of my life.

Trauma is inevitable. Healing and surviving from trauma is also possible. But, in order to survive trauma we need to know more and more about it. It is my hope during my sabbatical to grow in this area of understanding. I am already enrolled in a course that I have

been taking since February on understanding trauma and beginning healing.

The writer of Lamentations spends a lot of time...well...lamenting, they also remind us of the hope. In verse 24 they write, "'Adonai is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I have hope in Adonai.'" This reminds us that God is with us in our trauma. God is with us in our suffering, We must remember most importantly that God is also with us in our healing.

Peace be the journey,

Pastor Bill

2023 Leaders

Below are the members of the Council, Mutual Ministry, and Sabbatical teams for 2023 in the event you would like to contact one of these leaders.

Council

Beth Buczynski (Pres.)	Jim Martin
Cindy Karthauser (VP)	Janie Robbins
Jen Bartz (Treasurer)	Pam Stockbridge
JoAnn Holdmann (Secr.)	Terry Young
Morgan Bernard	

Mutual Ministry Team - The MMT is the liaison between the congregation, the pastor and other staff.

Dan/Theresa Umhoefer
Matt Junker
Pam Stockbridge

Sabbatical Team - If you have questions regarding Pr. Bill's sabbatical, you may contact one of the members on this team.

Pam Stockbridge (Chair)	Cindy Karthauser
Dan Driewer	Ben Lindsay
Pam Johnson	Stacy Rauen

Sabbatical News

Letter from Pam Stockbridge

Members of Grace,

Pastor Bill's professional development sabbatical will begin next week. On behalf of the sabbatical team, I want to thank you for the support that you have given to Pastor Bill and the sabbatical team. Our prayer is that you will continue to support the sabbatical with regular church attendance and financial giving. The team has done extensive work to provide Grace with spiritual and educational services during the sabbatical. We ask for your prayers while Pastor Bill is away learning about meditation, mindfulness, and trauma recovery to enrich his continuing ministry to Grace.

I want to give everyone a guide for the next three months.

Worship & Communion

An ordained pastor will conduct worship services with communion two Sundays in May, two Sundays in June, two Sundays in July, and every Tuesday through August 1. An ordained pastor also will provide communion on Pentecost, May 28. The remaining Sundays will include presentations on information vital for the ministry of Grace to thrive, and some devotional messages by congregational members who are not on the sabbatical team.

Hospitality

To maintain hospitality and community, Community Life has scheduled church teams to provide for a fellowship time with coffee and minimal treats on the sabbatical Sundays. This is a departure from the previous plan of spontaneous snacks if a person wanted to bring something on a Sunday. We will revert to the previous plan of spontaneous snacks after the sabbatical.

Emergencies

There will be an ordained pastor available for emergencies and hospital visits. If pastoral service is needed, call the church office at **262-242-1174**. If the call is not answered by a person, please leave a message. If you leave a message, you will receive a call from the appropriate person.

Re-Entry

The sabbatical team and Pastor Bill have developed a re-entry process for the first week in August. We recognize that the first task for Pastor Bill will be to learn what happened while he was on sabbatical.

- The first two days (Tuesday, August 1 and Wednesday August 2) Pastor Bill will be meeting with Sandy, Church Council President and Sabbatical Team Chair. He will also be handling other vital pastoral duties such as preparing for Thursday Bible Study and his sermon for Sunday August 6.
- The following two days (Thursday, August 3, and Friday, August 4) Pastor Bill will be available as he was before the sabbatical. If you need to meet with Pastor Bill, please call the church office **262-242-1174** to schedule an appointment. Sandy will be scheduling 45 minute appointments for Thursday or Friday. Sandy will have the master list of appointments thus they need to be made through her.

Contacts

If you have a question or concern during the sabbatical time, you can contact:

Church Council president - Beth Buczynski
208-946-9104

Mutual Ministry Chair - Pam Stockbridge
262-366-0162

Sabbatical Chair - Pam Stockbridge
262-366-0162

Or any member of the church council, mutual ministry team or sabbatical team (See p.2).

Respectfully,

Pam Stockbridge
Sabbatical Team Chair



Social Events and Other Notes

Brewer Game News!



Athletics vs Brewers
Sunday, June 11



With baseball season upon us and the Brewers off to a great start, Grace will again be sponsoring an outing at American Family Field. The date selected is Sunday, June 11 at 1pm against the Oakland Athletics. The cost for each adult is \$40, which includes a ticket for the game, the tailgate space, all food and drink at the tailgate, and transportation to the game. Those under 18, only need to pay \$20 for the tickets. Children under 2 are free. Please sign up by May 21 so we know how many tickets are needed. Payment would be appreciated by that date. Those interested can sign up at the welcome desk or can contact Terry Young. [(414) 573-9563 tyoung5@wi.rr.com]

Easter Breakfast & Fellowship!



Hospital Chaplain Information

By Joby Brown

From Your Friendly Hospital Chaplain...

While Pastor Bill is away for his sabbatical, the sabbatical team has put into place a comprehensive plan for the pastoral care needs of the congregation. While that plan is likely to be sufficient, just as when there is a full-time pastor, the team has asked me to take this opportunity to also remind you of another option you always have when you are in the hospital – chaplains.

When you or a family member are in the hospital, you can call a chaplain to provide immediate spiritual care including, but not restricted to, processing a diagnosis or news about your health condition, prayer, communion, advocacy for questions you might have about your condition, and support for difficult conversations. We can even be a conduit between you and the church so you don't have to worry about making phone calls while you concentrate on getting better.

Chaplains are clinically-trained and board-certified spiritual care providers who are required to have recognized vestment or standing in their faith tradition. All of our Milwaukee area hospital systems provide spiritual care services, and in most cases you just have to let your nurse know you would like to speak to a chaplain, and they will make a referral.

Be well, and know a chaplain is just a page away.



Birthdays & Other News

May Worship Leaders

5/7

Greeter: Sandy Smith

Reader: Katy Koppa

Wine: Geri Schesel, Nancy Perez

Usher: TBD

Communion Setup: Beth Buczynski

5/14 (No communion)

Greeter: Sandy Smith

Reader: Izzy Koppa

Usher: TBD

5/21

Greeter: John Stockbridge

Reader: TBD

Wine: Geri Schesel, Nancy Perez

Usher: TBD

Comm. Setup: TBD

5/28

Greeter: TBD

Reader: Jordan Beck

Wine: Nancy Perez, TBD

Usher: TBD

Comm. Setup: TBD



May Birthdays

Name	Date
Stevie-Lyn Zenke	4
Hudson Radiske	5
Aiden Hollander	15
Keegan Hollander	15
Gretchen Stahle	15
Bonnie Kern	16
Maya Rauen	17
Taylor Farris	18
Todd Habermann	19
Erica Campbell	21
Ben Zeller	21
Matt Junker	22
Mike Buczynski	23
Mary James	23
Chelsea Karthaus	23
Erin Umhoefer	23
Beth Buczynski	25
Dave Huebschen	29
Gerald Laabs	30
Calvin Krogstad	31
Miles Stone	31

If you have a birthday this month and your name is not listed, we apologize. Please call the church office so that we update our records.

Thank you!



All Peoples Church Food Pantry

At this time the pantry food supply is still very low; so for the foreseeable future we hope to collect non-perishable food items again. When you shop for your family, please pick up an extra item for the pantry. Thank you!



Guest House Sandwiches

We assemble sandwiches for the guests at the Guest House twice each month, on the first and third Wednesdays, at 9:00am. Join us for this opportunity to serve and to enjoy fellowship with one another on Wednesdays, **May 3 and 17.**



Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Erich Nemcek and Kasey Kajiwarra on the birth of their daughter Rie Lynne Kajiwarra, who weighed 6lbs, 12oz when born in Honolulu, HI on April 11. Rie is the granddaughter of Lynne and Dave Huebschen, and great-granddaughter of Holly Grassin-Kremmel. Blessings and congratulations to the family!



Memorial Fund Activity for March

Income: \$1

Expenditures: \$893

Balance: \$10,319

(Designated: \$3,682)

(Available: \$6,637)

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Online Giving Option
Open your phone's camera
app and hold over the
QR code

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Worship with Holy Communion:

Sundays at 9am

Tuesday Devotional at 12:10pm

Education:

Bible Study - Thursdays:12pm



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

May Calendar

Recurring Events

Sundays

9am Worship/Comm.
10:15am Choir Rehearsals
10:15am Community Life Team Meeting
(1st Sun.)
11am Bell Choir Rehearsal

Mondays

5:30pm Northshore Quilters (3rd Mon.)
6:30pm Scouts (4th Mon. each month)

Tuesdays

12:10pm Devotional Svc.
6pm Council (3rd Tue.)
6:30pm Scouts

Wednesdays

9am Guest House Sandwiches, F.H.
(1st and 3rd Wed.)
6pm Band Practice, Sanctuary
6pm Girl Scouts (3rd Wed.)

Thursdays

12pm Bible Study - Library

Saturdays

9am SBG Practice (every other Sat.)

Other Events & Meetings

May 7 (Sunday)

10:15am Sunday School (last day)

May 21 (Sunday)

10:15am Sunday School Celebration

May Choir Schedule

Sunday	5/7 Chancel Choir
Sunday	5/14 SGB Band
Sunday	5/21 Bell Choir

- Bells warm up at 8am. Other groups warm up at 8:15am prior to worship
- SBG Band practices at 9am every other Saturday