

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

January, 2022

Pastor's Ponderings



Have you gotten your 2022 calendar yet? Buying a new wall calendar for a new year used to be an exciting event for me. What theme should I choose? What sorts of pictures did I want gracing my walls for the next 12 months? Adorable kittens? Majestic lighthouses? The year we were going to Scotland, I got a Scotland calendar, complete with pictures of highland cows, lochs, and quaint Scottish pubs. Last year I got a calendar with beaches from around the world, in hopeful expectation that we'd once again be able to travel to tropical places we'd missed during COVID. But this year, I was a bit apathetic, resigned to put up a generic calendar I found for free.

You see, where a blank calendar used to excite me, the start of a new year of uncertainties now reminds me of how exhausting the last 2 years of uncertainties have been. Will this new blank slate be filled with more days of joy and fulfillment or with more days of struggle, difficulty, and change? By nature, humans aren't particularly enthusiastic about change. Yet we've experienced great changes in the last 2 years. Many of them have been painful and difficult, but some have been surprisingly welcome changes. What will 2022 bring?

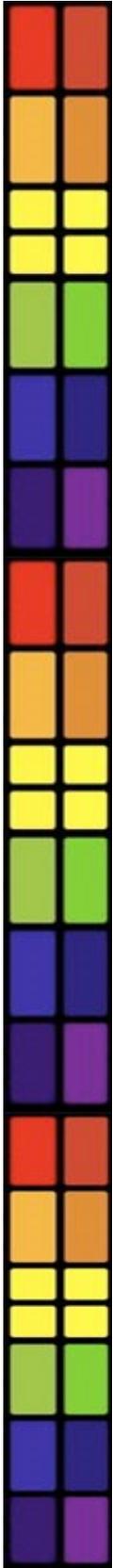
So often, the events of life are shaped by how we see them, how we receive them, how we respond to them. Do we approach things with cynicism and pessimism? Do we approach things with openness and optimism? I think we each react in all of those ways at one time or another. A few months ago I mentioned my daughter's dealing with the "glass half-full or half-empty" conundrum by saying, "The glass is completely full – either with water or air." It truly is a matter of perspective, isn't it? That inspires me to look at my blank calendar with hope and an openness to the possibilities that await us.

We all know that change is inevitable, but our reactions to change are not predestined. Perhaps that's why New Year's Resolutions are so popular – it's a time when we step up to the plate and choose to make healthy changes for ourselves. Often we put so much pressure on ourselves to make major changes in January, and when we slip up, we give up, thinking we've failed. But I encourage you to give yourself some grace and try again. Invite God to walk through the planned and unplanned changes in your life with you. Look at the months ahead and think about how you can more deeply connect with God, with your faith practices, and with people who are important to you. Your spiritual health and wholeness are important, and they'll help the rest of your life as well. Shameless plug – I'd love for you to join us for our Spiritual Practices class this month to discover new ways to do that. More info inside. ☺

Many blessings as you approach your new year and all the possibilities that await you. Also, I thank you for all the Christmas cards, treats, and gifts. You are indeed a blessing to me and my family.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer



Virginia's Retirement Celebration

After working in the Grace office for 9 years, Virginia Becker is retiring. We will hold a Retirement Celebration for Virginia on Sunday, January 23 at 9:45 a.m. Please join us to thank Virginia for her 9 years of service, her creativity, faith, compassion, and for everything that she's done for our congregation.

New Staff Members

As we bid farewell to Virginia Becker as our Administrative Assistant, we welcome Catherine Elliott, who we've hired to become our new Administrative Assistant. Virginia and Catherine will be working together for a little while as Catherine becomes acquainted with Grace. Please warmly welcome Catherine and do all you can to help her get to know our community.

And we're grateful that our organist, Kenneth Hoversten, has agreed to also serve as our Music Director, directing the Sanctuary Choir and overseeing all the music of the congregation.



Star Words

For the last 2 years, we've become acquainted with the tradition of Star Words. Each January, as we remember the star guiding the magi to Jesus, we seek our own stars to guide our lives of faith in the next year. So at Grace, we give you the opportunity to receive a "Star Word" that can help to guide you in the coming year. We invite you to put that star somewhere that you can see it regularly. It's amazing to reflect on how God uses our words to inspire and strengthen us. We'll pass out Star Words on Sunday, January 2nd in worship, and they'll be available in-person after that. If you'd like to receive a Star Word online, simply go to www.wordsatgrace.com.



Mask Requirement

As you now know, Dane County's mask mandate has been renewed for all people gathering inside buildings. To continue protecting our children, our immunocompromised, and everybody else, Grace continues requiring masks for worship and other gatherings in the building. Thank you for once again caring for the welfare of your neighbors in this way.

Worship Broadcasts

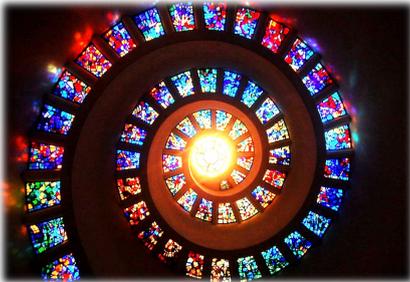
Sunday worship services are live broadcast on Charter channel 987 and on Grace's Facebook page. Sermons are posted on Grace's YouTube channel after Sunday worship, as well.

Grace Office Hours

9:00 a.m.- Noon Monday through Friday. There are additional office hours, but those will vary more. Please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment. Contact information

Our Choirs are Back!

As you likely heard in December, both our Bell Choir and our Sanctuary Choir are back! And both choirs are happy to have new members. Handbell Choir rehearses Monday evenings from 5:45-6:45 p.m. Interested? Talk with Ann Engelstad. Sanctuary Choir rehearses Sunday mornings at 10:15, newly under the direction of Kenneth Hoversten, who's just accepted the position of Music Director . All are welcome!



Spiritual Practices Study

Each January, many of us start the year with New Year's Resolutions to do better at any number of things in our lives. Many of us want to connect more deeply to our faith and to God, but we're not sure how. Our Monday night study in January will help you do just that. These Spiritual Practices aren't heady or intimidating – they're actual practices that anyone can try.

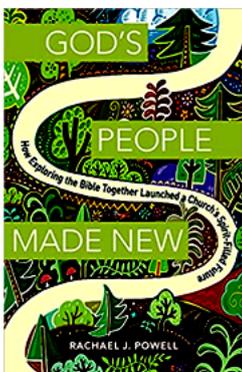
Join us in person or on Zoom to experience some of these Spiritual Practices and to figure out which ones are most meaningful to you as you seek to transform your faith and more deeply connect with God. We meet Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Join us for any or all weeks. All are welcome! If you'd like to join us on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85241370730?pwd=eTFpZGxNWkJFL2laZzZCYVRpYlZkdz09>

Coffee Hour Update

An important tradition at Grace has been shared Coffee Hour after worship. In the past, women were assigned a Sunday each year. Now, after nearly 2 years, we're returning to having scheduled hosts for Sunday coffee hours. **Each household** has been assigned a Sunday during the year and will be asked to host that Sunday, with another household. You will receive a mailing this month about when you're scheduled, and there are detailed instructions of what you need to do. If you need to switch Sundays with somebody else, please do that and let the church office know. Thanks so much for being a part of this important ministry.



Pastor Rachael's Book

For those of you who have been around Grace for a while, you'll certainly remember Pastor Rachael Powell, who served from 2004-2007. Pastor Rachael now serves in Albuquerque, New Mexico at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, about which she's written a new book called "**God's People Made New: How Exploring the Bible Together Launched a Church's Spirit-Filled Future.**" We celebrate this exciting accomplishment and are grateful for Pastor Rachael's continued leadership in the ELCA.

Confirmation Corner

January's Mentor Night will be Wednesday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m.

This month we begin our study of the New Testament in class. Students are reminded that they need to be taking at least 2 sermon notes a month, either at in-person worship or at home.



Welcome, Catherine Elliott

Catherine has lived her life in the Midwest, having grown up first in small town Iowa and then in the suburbs of Chicago. Her adult life has also been split between the two states, and now she happily adds Wisconsin to the list.

She has two adult sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandsons, all of whom live in Iowa. Her partner Stan has 6 grandchildren, and they enjoy summers on the pontoon with grandchildren and friends.

Catherine recently retired from a career as an association professional, where she last served as Director of Education for the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Having worked many years with physicians and dentists, Catherine enjoyed facilitating continuing education activities in support of members' careers. She is very much looking forward to using her skills in supporting members of Grace Lutheran and getting to know our community of faith.

January Grace Volunteers



January 2nd- Bill & Betty Reay-Ushers **Assisting Minister: Jennifer Hellberg**
Betty Reay-Reader Coffee Hour: Jill Jensen, Wendy Lehr
Ruth Circle- Marcia Sets Up Communion

January 9th- Janet Koepf & Judy Heidebrecht-Ushers **Assisting Minister: Jeff Gafner**
Janet Koepf-Reader Coffee Hour: Mission Trip Families
Ruth Circle- Sharon Sets Up Communion

January 16th- Merlin & Tiana Borchardt-Ushers **Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke**
Shawn Koebke-Reader Coffee Hour: Watsons, Hermansons
Ruth Circle- Barb Sets up communion

January 23rd- Dale Tim & Evy Jeffers-Ushers **Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman**
Tim Jeffers-Reader Coffee Hour: Marcia Sivesind, Jeanine Thurow
Geis family Sets up communion

January 30th- Pat Northey, Scott Key family-Ushers **Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen**
Ward Nottestad-Reader Coffee Hour: Barb Gregory, Halls
Pat Northey Sets up communion

Altar Guild- Mary Christensen, Marcia Klemp, Cheryl Mittelstedt

January Calendar

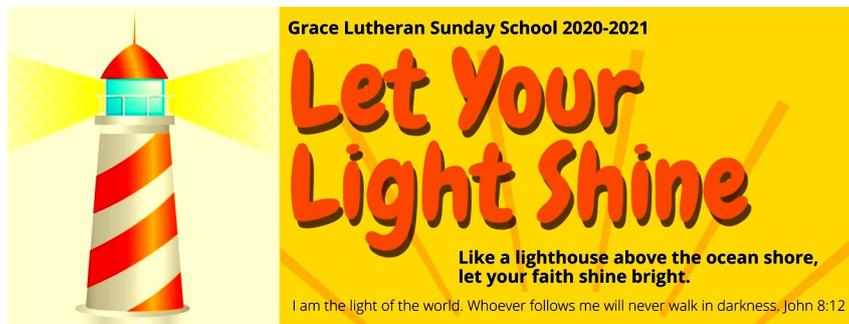
Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook Pick up YOUR 2022 Star Word!</p> <p>Sunday School starts back next week</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Welcome, Catherine, Elliott, new Administrative Assistant</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quilters</p> <p>7 p.m. Spiritual Practices Study</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9 a.m. Ruth Circle at Marcia Sivesind's home, Carolyn hostess</p> <p>6:30 p.m. MENTOR NIGHT Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Hospitality Mtg.</p> <p>10:00 Youth Coffee Hour Fundraiser</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quilters</p> <p>7 p.m. Spiritual Practices Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Grace Council Mtg.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Lydia Circle, Cindy Hartman hostess</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Newsletter articles due</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program; Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:00-a.m. 3rd Graders & parent-Bible Class with Pastor Jennifer</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilters</p> <p>7 p.m. Spiritual Practices Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-confirmation</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Retirement Celebration for Virginia</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quilters</p> <p>7 p.m. Spiritual Practices Study</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-confirmation</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship SERVICE Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 p.m. Spiritual Practices Study</p>					



Annual Meeting 10 a.m. Sunday, February 6th

Sunday School

Teresa Neuenschwander,
Christian Education Coordinator
teresa478@hotmail.com
608-658-7844



Sunday School Schedule

January 2nd– Christmas Break No Sunday School

January 9th- Sunday School Resumes

January 16th- 3rd Grade receives their Bibles during service. 3rd grade and parent will meet with Pastor Jennifer after Sunday School for a Bible Class. 10:00-10:45am

January 16th , 23rd , 30th- Regular Sunday School

February 6th , 13th , 20th , 27th- Regular Sunday School

Youth Gathering Update

We have 8 awesome youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis this coming summer – Maddy Buonincontro, Mallorri Buonincontro, Cally Gill, Alyssa Gottschalk, Emma Hellberg, Sierra Jelinek, Kendra Tobias, Kyla Tobias, as well as Pastor Jennifer and Brenda Lovick as leaders. They'll be hosting Coffee Hour on Jan. 9, so please come enjoy the goodies and give generously.

The Cambridge Food Pantry is currently seeking donations of:

Coffee Oatmeal/Cream of Wheat Laundry detergent
Toothpaste Body wash Dog and cat food

The Cambridge Food Pantry website can be found at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>



Thank you for your continued support of your Cambridge neighbors!

Kerry Marren
Community Activities Program
Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator
608-423-8142
foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us
www.cambridgecap.net

Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated!



Monthly Treasurer's Report

As your treasurer, I am pleased to report exciting news in regard to our Renewing Grace Capital Campaign. After starting down the path to pay off debt related to Sanctuary renovations in September 2018, we can now put the campaign to a close. Thanks to the generous donation of a Grace Lutheran member, we now have enough cash on hand for the remaining principal balance of the MIF loan used to fund renovations. With that gift, we are again debt-free.

In addition to that good news, I am also pleased to share that General Giving donations increased in the month of November. Those donations are critical to running our day-to-day operations and are very much appreciated. Please keep Grace Lutheran in mind as you are making your year-end charitable donations, as it would greatly benefit the church to finish 2021 on strong financial footing. To that end, it is never too early to think about pledges for the 2022 fiscal year. I appreciate all of you who have returned Pledge cards for next year and look forward to another positive year for our church in my final year as your treasurer.
-Tim Neuenschwander, *Council Treasurer*

Thank You!

Thank you to all of those who made our Advent and Christmas seasons so beautiful – Kathy McCarty, Pat Northey, Virginia Becker, Ann Engelstad, Kenneth Hoversten, Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, special musicians, Teresa Neuenschwander, Sunday School teachers, parents, and children, and the many others who shared their gifts during this meaningful time.

A big thank you to Neil Johnson for creating the beautiful Christmas tree ornaments out of our old pews, and donating the proceeds to our youth.

Stewardship

Just a reminder that you can make your Grace giving easy if you have the Venmo app. Here is the QR code for quick and easy donating.

If it asks for a cell security code, enter #0131. Thank you!



venmo

OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Even with the COVID pandemic last year, you continued to support our Outreach projects, and we **thank you**. Thanks to your generosity we sent \$2600 to ELCA for World Hunger, many Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, and School Kits to Lutheran World Relief, \$1300 to the Madison Area Jail Ministry (Brat Fest sales), and most recently - Clothing for the Afghan refugees at Fort McCoy and money to Lutheran Social Services for refugee resettlement in southern Wisconsin.

The goal of our committee is to support missions within Grace, locally, nationally, and globally. If anyone would like to join us, please reach out. We will start planning for 2022 in January.

And once again, THANK YOU!!
Marcia Sivesind

MEMBER DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	Charlene Kenseth March 28, 1940-November 16, 2021
	Jacqueline Shively June 21, 1932-November 18, 1921

OUR HOMEBOUND

Jon Bakken
309 Oriole Lane
Cambridge, WI 53523

Mary Ellen Smith
912 Monroe St., Apt. 11
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Sheets Needed!

Grace Quilters are in great need of clean, stain-free, cotton sheets. Please bring them into the office if you have any or find them at yard sales. Thank you!

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2021 Via Zoom from Home (*Minutes below aren't approved until next month's meeting*)

Call to Order- Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Steve Geis, Amanda Kosanda, Tom Kosanda, Shawn Whitman, Kris Tobias, Tim Neuenschwander, Ann Engelstad, Jean Scott and Pastor Jennifer Jelinek. **Absent:** Jennifer Hellberg, Mary Behling, Kari Jermain
Devotions: Ann Engelstad offered devotions and Pastor Jennifer offered a prayer to open the meeting.

Approval of November Minutes: Jean Scott moved to approve the Minutes, Ann Engelstad seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda: Christmas services will be held at 3 and 5 p.m. inside the church and at 7 p.m. outside on Christmas Eve. There will be no service on Christmas Day. Jean Scott (Outreach committee) reported that the Advent project has started and that they are continuing to collect items of need and money for Fort McCoy

Property Report : Shawn Whitman reported that the auto lighting timer switch is under repair. The audio equipment for the Christmas evening service is being setup and checked out.

Treasurer's Report: Tim Neuenschwander provided his reports and summary. He noted that November revenue was up over the past month. Expenses were up this month due to an extra payroll ending in a net loss for the month. Tim then noted that a donation was made to pay the remaining balance of the Renewing Grace campaign, completing it. Tim then reviewed the proposed 2022 budget. Adjustments were made to raise the property budget, adjusting the Synod and ELCA mission to 10%. The budget item for the administration assistant was increased to accommodate and plan for the cross training a new resource. The Organist was also increased to accommodating additional accompaniments. Motion to pass the budget by Jean Scott, seconded by Kris Tobias, unanimously approved. Ann Engelstad moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Jean Scott seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report : The nominating committee proposed the following council positions:

Kris Tobias – President April Mickelson – Outreach Bill Becker – Education Chair Mary Behling – Secretary

Still looking for a representative for Property
Interviewing is continuing for an administrative assistant. Kenneth, will be interviewing and auditioning for the music director position. December 26 will be a Lesson and Carols format (No Sermon). Sunday School Christmas program reported as having gone very well.

New Business: Discussed the need to establish a Funeral Policy. Current funeral trends are pushing the need to detail a funeral policy. Like the establishment of the wedding policies, this policy will help services run smoothly and manage expectations.

Annual meeting being planned for February 6th.

Discussion of staff gifts, including planning a gift/celebration for our retiring Administrative Assistant

Old Business: Coffee hour will continue after Sunday service. Starting in the new year, a family schedule will be made and sent out. Pairs of families will be responsible for hosting.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Tim Neuenschwander moved to adjourn the meeting. Jean Scott seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Next meeting will be Jan. 11, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom unless decided otherwise. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by Kris Tobias, Council Vice President.

Graceful Christmas

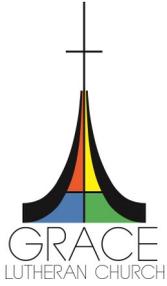
Thank you to Kathy McCarty, Pat Northey and Virginia Becker for the beautiful Christmas decorating of our building. The ambiance you prepared helped us all feel welcome, warm and full of gratitude this Advent and Christmas season.



Sunday School Christmas Program

December 12, 2021





Grace Lutheran Church
E.L.C.A.
501 Skogen Road
Cambridge, WI 53523

Place
stamp
here

Place address sticker here;
not any higher

Gathering in grace, Growing in faith, Serving in love.

www.gracelutherancambridge.org

“Like Us” on Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-
ELCA Cambridge, WI

Please note:
We broadcast
on Channel 987



Staff & Council Contacts

<u>Pastor:</u>	Jennifer Jelinek	Home: 423-2329	Cell: (608) 295-7120	pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com
<u>Administrative Assistant:</u>	Virginia Becker	Church Office: (608) 423-3135	Cell: (623) 680-3696	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Diane Russo		Cell: (847) 826-0131	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<u>Organist:</u>	Kenneth Hoversten			kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com
<u>Handbell Choir Director:</u>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u>	Teresa Neuenschwander		Cell: (608) 658-7844	teresa478@hotmail.com
<u>Volunteer Coordinator:</u>	Cindy Hartman			cindyh1029@msn.com

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<u>President :</u>	Steve Geis	swgeis@yahoo.com
<u>Vice President</u>	Kris Tobias	
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mary Behling	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tim Neuenschwander	
<u>Outreach:</u>	Jean Scott	
<u>Education:</u>	Amanda Kosanda	
<u>Stewardship</u>	Jennifer Hellberg	
<u>Hospitality:</u>	Kari Jermain	
<u>Evangelism:</u>	Shawn Whitman	
<u>Worship:</u>	Ann Engelstad	
<u>Property:</u>	Tom Kosanda	