

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

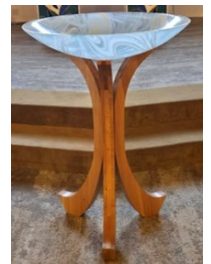
September 2026 Newsletter



Pastor's Ponderings

Ten years ago, I was busy packing boxes, dealing with movers, and saying goodbye to my last congregation before moving my family to Cambridge. I had hopes, dreams, fears, and wonderings about what our lives would be like here. We had a 6th grader and a 2nd grader, and now both of my daughters are seniors looking ahead to further education, and I've been here at Grace for 10 years. It's truly amazing how time flies.

Looking back, during my first month at Grace, we celebrated 50 years in our current building, said farewell to the chancel furniture that had served so well for half a century, and we dedicated the altar, pulpit, and font we have today. In the last month, we dedicated a new baptismal bowl that will welcome even more people into God's family of grace.



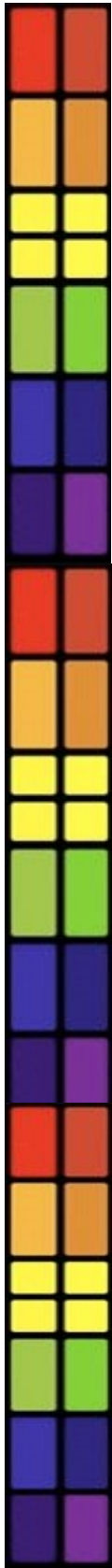
In the last decade, we renovated the Sanctuary, we've grown an incredible Bible study group, we learned how to utilize new ministry tools due to the pandemic. We've fed hungry people, worked for justice, learned together, made beautiful music, and worshiped together. We've said goodbye to many beloved siblings in Christ, and we've welcomed so many wonderful new folks into the Grace family. And we are indeed a family. Every Sunday, it's such a joy to see how you love one another, how you take care of each other, and how you welcome newcomers.

I'm so grateful for this congregation for so many reasons. You're compassionate and generous, seeing the needs around you and giving generously. You're open to new ideas and trying new things, often bringing those ideas up yourselves. You have a deep love for Jesus and justice in our world. I'm grateful for how you've supported my daughters as they've grown up, how you've supported and blessed me as your pastor, and how you inspire me to continue leading and serving here with you. This month we celebrate 10 years of partnership together. I know God has much more in store for us as we Gather in Grace, Grow in Faith, and Serve in Love together.



In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





Stewardship Rummage Sale



A huge thank you to our many volunteers who helped with the rummage sale: merchandise organization, set up, take down, working during the sale, and coordination by Connie and Pat. A special thank you to Catherine Elliott Seaborg for putting up with the noise and shenanigans during the set up, and assistance with designing posters and other behind-the-scenes help.

We raised over \$2000 this year! Proceeds will go to the Cambridge Area Food Pantry, CART (Cambridge Area Resource Team), and a church mission/project to be determined. Community members facing financial insecurity shopped for free, and *Opportunity's Closet* in Fort Atkinson received a generous donation of unsold clothing and shoes. All-in-all a very successful endeavor. Thanks for your generous support!

Community Meal October 1st

Grace is hosting and serving the Cambridge Community Meal at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 1. We'll need lots of volunteers. Interested? Check out the sign-up sheet at church in the coming weeks.

Confirmation Corner



Confirmation Orientation for 7th grade students and parents will be on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Third-year students – If you haven't started your 3rd year mentorship booklet and sermon notes, you're invited to get started. You'll need 5 sermon notes by October 14.

Youth Gathering Informational Meeting

The next ELCA Youth Gathering is in June 28-July 2, 2027 in Minneapolis! Grace youth who are currently in grades 8-12 are invited to attend. There will be an informational meeting on Wed. September 2 at 7:30 p.m. for parents and students. Interested but can't come? Talk to Pastor Jennifer.

Got college students or other young adults? There will be a Young Adults Gathering in Minneapolis that week as well. If your college student is interested, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Monday- Friday. Variable additional hours are available; please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment (608)423-3135 or via email at gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com



Want to Worship from Home? Here's How!

Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Spectrum cable channel 987 on Sundays at 9am. 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>



Want to help with Evangelism and reach out to individuals seeking comfort through God's word? Please see Marcia Klemp.

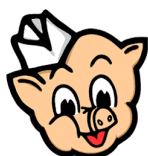
Monday Night Adult Study

In 2025, the ELCA put out a social statement called, "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All." The statement invites us to consider how our faith intersects with our lives as citizens in this country. Both Christianity and the United States have governing documents that guide our lives and governing structures. How do those documents work together? Where should they be separate? Do politics belong in church? Does faith belong in politics? These issues and conversations seem most pertinent as we approach midterm elections in November. Come join us for this 6-week Faith and Civic Life study on Monday nights, starting September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Monarch Update (pictures on pg. 7)

As you may know, this summer we've been fostering monarch caterpillars at Grace. To date, we've released 12 monarch butterflies! The season is drawing to a close, and the last 5+ butterflies we'll release will be "super generation" of monarchs that fly all the way to Mexico to reproduce, ensuring that future generations will return here next spring. These super monarchs live 8 times longer than their ancestors, and they fly about 50 miles a day until they reach their winter breeding grounds. We wish our monarchs well and look forward to meeting their descendants next spring.

Save Those Pig Receipts!



Did you know that if you bring your Cambridge Piggly Wiggly receipts to church, Grace gets back 1% of what you spent? It's an easy and wonderful way to help support a local business AND your congregation. Receipts can be left in the drawer of the table in the main entrance vestibule.

Member Deaths/Funerals

Ronald Zickert- Funeral August 15, 2026

Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen

Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman

Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke

Assisting Minister: Tim Neuenschwander

SEPTEMBER AT GRACE

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
30 BLESSING OF KITS & QUILTS 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	31 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	SEPT 1	2 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 7:30 pm Youth Gathering Mtg	3	4	5
6 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 7 pm COUNCIL MEETING	9 9 am Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Confirmation Orientation	10 12 noon Staff Mtg	11	12
13 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	14 9:30 am Quilters	15 Newsletter content due	16 6:30 pm Confirmation	17	18	19
20 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	21 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	22	23 6:30 pm Confirmation	24	25	26
27 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	28 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	29	30 6:30 pm Confirmation	Oct 1 5:30 pm Grace Community Dinner	2	3

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



Sunday School Returns September 13!

We're excited to kick off a new year of Grace Children's Ministry on Sunday, September 13th! Children (Pre-K to 5th Grade) are invited to join us after worship for a fun morning of Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and friendships as we grow together in God's love. Sunday School runs each week from 10:15-11 am.



Whether your family is returning or joining us for the first time, we'd love to welcome you!

New families can register online at:

<https://gracecambridge.breezechms.com/form/3ccadd>

Returning families do not need to register unless your family's information has changed.

Questions? We'd be happy to help you get connected! Please contact Breah Klemp, Christian Education Coordinator, at christianedu.glc@gmail.com.

We can't wait to welcome new families and see all of our Sunday School kids back for another wonderful year of learning, growing, and sharing God's love together!



This month we begin First Communion Classes with our 5th graders. Parents, please join your students in the introductory class on Sept. 13 in the Youth Room downstairs. Students should bring their Bible. After 4 weeks of learning, journaling, decorating chalices, and baking bread, they will celebrate First Communion for the first

time during worship on Sunday, October 11th. This special milestone marks an important step in each child's faith journey.

Caring for God's Creation

Just a few of God's amazing creations!



Senior Activities

Did you know CAP (Cambridge Activities Program) offers activities for seniors (55+) on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month? Check it out at the Oakland/Cambridge Presbyterian Church fellowship hall.

Senior Lunch – (second Wednesday of the month) CAP hosts a fun and friendly senior lunch perfect for connecting with others and enjoying great food and entertainment. Doors open approximately 11:30 am, meal at noon - cost \$5.00.

Senior Enrichment Series – (fourth Wednesday of the month 10:15 to 11:30 am) Workshops designed to inform, empower and connect local seniors. Topics focus on health, wellness, financial security, safety, technology, and community resources. Workshops are FREE. September 23 topic – Brain Health.

For more information about either of these opportunities or to reserve your spot, please call 608 423 8142.

Please Keep Our Less Fortunate Neighbors in Mind!

The urgent need at the Cambridge Food Pantry continues. The wish list for donations includes hearty soup, corned beef hash, spam, packaged potato mixes, cereal, ketchup, crackers, cookies, coffee, hamburger helper, personal care items, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

Please see the display in the vestibule and consider donating.

For more information, visit the Cambridge Food Pantry website at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>

Thank you for your continued support of our Cambridge neighbors!



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2026

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

Call to Order. President Kris Tobias called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM following a potluck dinner hosted by Pastor Jennifer.

Attendance. Present: Steve Bielefeldt, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Marcia Klemp, Connie Kreuser, Julie Leser, Amy Simdon, Richard Scott, John Jensen, Judy Heidebrecht, Janet Koepp, Kris Tobias.

Absent: Peggy Punsel, Kristin Rue.

Devotions. Janet presented a personal faith statement written for her granddaughter's confirmation, including selected verses from Psalm 27.

Approval of Minutes. John moved to approve the July meeting minutes. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by those who attended the July meeting.

Approval of Agenda. Judy moved to approve the agenda. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence. None.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) Our financial trends continue to follow the usual pattern. General giving, special giving, and expenses are all more than last year. We continue to be close to budgeted numbers. General giving through July was \$160,385; YTD special giving is \$15,229. Our YTD expenses through July of \$184,515 were \$6,154 more than last year and \$8,521 under budget. Julie moved to approve this report and send it to audit. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. The security breach of our directory information is an ongoing issue. Scam emails are being sent from a false account in Pastor's name, asking for gift cards or help with confidential problems. The congregation has been notified about this several times, with a caution to delete the emails and not respond in any way. On Aug. 16 Marian Korth will present a program on worship music, and we will dedicate the new baptismal font. There will be a healing service on Aug. 30 along with the blessing of quilts and kits. Confirmation and Sunday School will start in September.

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

- Stewardship. The Edgerton newspaper recently featured an interview with Pr. Jennifer about the monarch butterfly project. Connie reported that St. Vinny's picked up most of the leftover items from the rummage sale on Aug. 10.

Old Business.

- **Compliance & Security Task Force.** The committee has not met. Pastor addressed the data breach in her report above.
- **Wi-Fi Upgrade Project.** Kris reported on the completion of the project by GEEK POWERED. They did a nice job in one full day, tested everything, and the system is working well at good speed.
- **Eagle Scout project.** Sam Grender is awaiting further approval from the Boy Scout organization.
- **Rummage Sale.** Judy provided a summary of the sale organization and volunteer efforts. We accomplished significant community outreach by providing free shopping to food pantry and/or CART clients at the conclusion of the sale. The "Opportunities Closet" in Fort Atkinson received a generous donation of clothes and shoes. St. Mark's in Jefferson was given fabric and a box of boys' t-shirts and shorts. The total proceeds are \$2,000; and these are earmarked for local use. We discussed a distribution suggestion: \$650 for the food pantry, \$650 for CART, and \$700 for a Grace Lutheran mission project to be determined. John moved to approve this distribution. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. We also discussed inviting food pantry and CART representatives to come to church to discuss what they do and answer questions at the time we present them with checks. Until then the funds will be held in the special giving budget account.

New Business.

Oakland drainage plans. Pastor received a phone call today from the Village of Oakland to notify us about planned work along Potter's Road and Grace Lane to improve drainage. It's unclear what the scope of the work will be, whether it involves grading, culverts, or other issues. Will the church be charged for anything? Will the parking lot continue to be accessible? Pastor will obtain a contact name and number to forward to the Property committee so that we can get more details and clarification.

Adjournment. Julie moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 PM (the day after Labor Day) and Kristin will present devotion.

Submitted by Janet Koepp, Council Secretary



From the Treasurer

July 2026 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date July 2026 Actual	Year-to-date 2026 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	160,385	172,083	(11,698)
Special Giving	15,229	18,667	(3,438)
Misc Income	<u>2,173</u>	<u>2,284</u>	<u>(111)</u>
Total Income	177,787	193,034	(15,247)
Expenses			
Administrative	68,644	67,327	1,318
Mission	25,354	30,333	(4,980)
Pastoral	86,742	89,181	(2,439)
Program	3,775	6,195	(2,420)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	184,515	193,036	(8,521)
Total Net Income (Loss)	(6,728) (2)		(6,726)

A gentle reminder to everyone of the importance of staying financially faithful. Your generosity fuels everything we do—from ministry to outreach—and every gift, big or small, makes a difference.

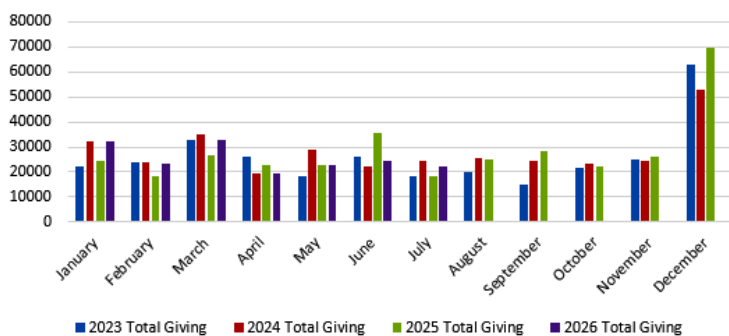
Let's continue trusting God together and giving with grateful hearts.

Thank you for being such a generous community!

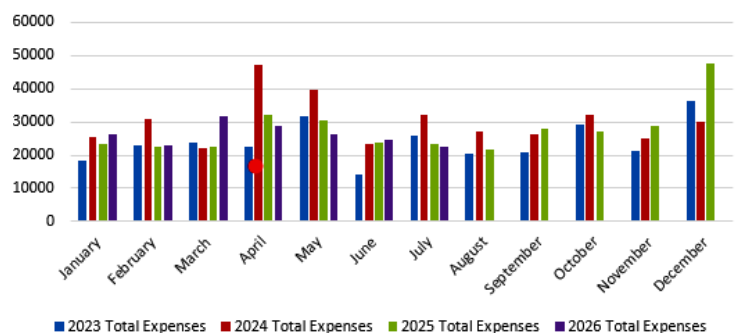


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Comparison of Total Giving - 2023-2026



Comparison of Total Expenses - 2023-2026





Staff and Council



STAFF

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Handbell Choir Director Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

COUNCIL

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Vice President Steve Bielefeldt

Secretary Janet Koepp

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach Judy Heidebrecht

Education Kristin Rue

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

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Property John Jensen

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