

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

August 2026 Newsletter

Pastor's Ponderings



When our Confirmation classes study Baptism, I always ask the kids to find out something about their own baptisms. Most of them were too young to remember their baptismal day, so their assignment is to look for pictures and ask questions about that day – when and where they were baptized, what they wore, who attended, etc. It's a fun thing to learn about so the kids can take those stories with them, remembering the day when God claimed them in baptism and when the church welcomed them as a new family member.

Whether you were baptized as a baby, a child, or an adult, whether you have memories, pictures and gifts from that day, whether you were baptized in this church, another church, or in a river, baptism made you part of the body of Christ. Baptism unites us into God's family, and through baptism, we're promised community, forgiveness of sins, God's constant presence, and eternal life. Baptism is a gift that God gives to us. And although we're only baptized once, we don't just say, "I was baptized." We say, "I am baptized." Each day, we can remember our baptism and recall how still God claims us, washes us clean, forgives us, blesses us, and promises us new life after this life is over.

Nearly ten years ago, when we dedicated the new sanctuary furnishings at Grace (pulpit, altar, and font), the font artisan brought us a prototype of the copper font he had designed. He was never able to get us the actual baptismal bowl, and the prototype has a hole in the center, which meant we had to put a small bowl inside to hold the water. So we started to think about finding a baptismal bowl that might be more practical for our needs. Our search brought us to a glass artist in Washington State who created a beautiful baptismal bowl for Grace.

My late husband Erik loved baptisms. Baptism was a main theme in his preaching and ministry. So it felt right to use the generous memorials from you and many other folks to buy this new baptismal bowl, where we can welcome countless new brothers and sisters in Christ into our Grace family. Join us as we dedicate the new baptismal bowl in worship on August 16.

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





August Rummage Sale

Donations
Accepted

Please consider donating your discarded treasures for the August Church Rummage Sale. Note the sale will take place one week later than normal this year, on August 7-8. You may bring items to the church basement, in the rooms designated for sale items. If you can help with set up the week before the sale, please see the sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Refreshed Youth Room

A big thanks to Gordie Grender and his volunteers, who repainted the Youth Room and back stairwell as a part of Gordie's Eagle Scout Project. Thanks so much!

"Woven Together" was the theme of the *ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering* last month. So that "weaving" theme will be "woven" through our worship services this month, starting Aug. 10. We'll also be creating a "Woven Together" tapestry together. Feel free to bring something to weave into our tapestry to represent yourself in our Grace tapestry. It can be yarn, rope, a long strip of fabric, a cord - anything flexible and at least 12 inches long.



Healing Service



What's troubling you or causing you pain in your life? Regular body aches? Health issues? Relationship concerns? Grief? Stress and worry? Join us in worship on Sunday, August 30 for a Healing Service where you can give your concerns to God. You'll have opportunity to participate in a variety of healing stations to pray for your own wellness, for the health of others, and for the wellbeing of the whole world: Aug. 30 at 9 am.

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



Sheets and Fabric Needed!

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

Any sewers who have unused fabric around, please remember you can donate unneeded fabric to Grace. Monetary donations are also welcome. Donations can be dropped off at the church office.



Want to Worship from Home? Here's How!

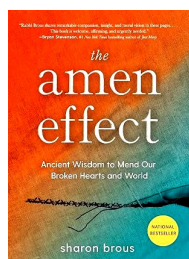
Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Spectrum cable channel 987 on Sundays at 9am. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our

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.

Grace Book Club



This month, our adult study will be reading and discussing the book, "The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts and World" by Sharon Brous. Brous is a Jewish rabbi who shares that the spiritual work of our time is to work on connecting with others in joy, in sorrow, and in solidarity. She writes about how ancient rituals can help us better connect with others in our increasingly lonely, disconnected world. If you're interested in participating, just pick up a copy of the book (or ask Pastor Jennifer to order you a copy). The study will begin on Monday, Aug. 10 at 7 pm.

Aug. 10 – Intro, Chapters 1-2

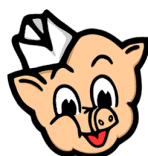
Aug. 17 – Chapters 3-4

Aug. 24 – Chapters 5-6

Aug. 31 – Chapters 7-8, Epilogue

Personal Care Kits Update

Thank you to everyone who donated bath towels and soap for the Personal Care Kits. Our goal was to complete 100 kits and we reached our goal for the second year in a row!! We had anonymous donations of 100 nail clippers and 100 combs. A very special Thank You to Dr. Angie Bauer who donated all 100 toothbrushes for the second time. Thank you all for helping with this important project.



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 front vestibule.

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS



- Aug 2** - Ushers: Bill Becker Family
Reader: Mary Bielefeldt
Communion Servers: Rich & Diane Fronek
Acolytes: Billy Becker & Eleanor Mabie
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Coffee Hour: Gottschalk & Lovick
Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen
- Aug 9** - Ushers: Doug & Gail Tufte
Reader: Betty Reay
Communion Servers: Judy Heidebrecht & Mary Jo Fowler
Acolytes: Corbin Klemp & Billy Becker
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Coffee Hour: Amy Simdon & Jennifer Budewitz
Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman
- Aug 16** - Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepp
Reader: Sandi Aston Hall
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tami Collin
Acolytes: Eleanor Mabie & August Ciha
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Coffee Hour: Mabie & Muth
Assisting Minister: Rich Fronek
- Aug 23** - Ushers: Richard & Jean Scott
Reader: Josh Mabie
Communion Servers: Gordie Grender & Kenny Zickert
Acolytes: Easton & Elliott Bernhardt
Communion Set Up: Geis Family
Coffee Hour: Geis & Lund
Assisting Minister: Rich Fronek
- Aug 30** - Ushers: Al & Pat Northey
Reader: Tim Neuenschwander
Communion Servers: Angie Bauer & Pat Hall
Acolytes: Avery & Blake Schutte
Communion Set Up: Pat Northey
Coffee Hour: Leadholm & Sullivan
Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts

Altar Guild - Brenda, Haven, and Cally Lovick

AUGUST AT GRACE

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
26 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	27 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	28	29	30	31	AUG 1
2 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	3 9:30 am Quilters	4	5 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	6	7 8am-4pm Rum-mage Sale	8 8am-noon Rum-mage Sale
9 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	10 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	11 7 pm COUNCIL MEETING	12 9 am Lydia Circle	13 12 noon Staff Mtg	14	15 News-letter content due
16 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	17 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	18	19	20	21	22
23 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	24 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	Sept 1	2 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	3	4	5

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!

Confirmation Corner



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.

Outreach and Social Justice

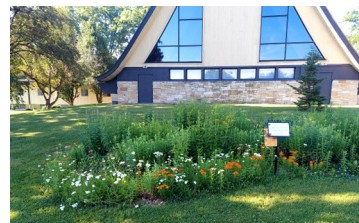
School is just around the corner!! Very soon back to school sales will begin. The Outreach Committee will once again be collecting school supplies for children in other parts of the world who may not have access to any. Below is a list of supplies needed for each school bag:

- Four – 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper
- One – 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt pair of scissors
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers secured with rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink) secured with rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 1/2" eraser

Please drop off supplies in Fellowship Hall near the School Supply display. Thank you so very much for helping to fill this urgent need for children.

Thank You Caretakers!

The Stewardship Committee would like to express our gratitude to all the caretakers of our little plot of creation at Grace Lutheran. Some of you mowed lawns, some of you weeded and tended the plants around the church property, some of you watered and/or weeded the pollinator garden. We are so grateful for all the time and energy given to keep our church home looking beautiful. A special shout out to the "Property Brothers" and to Pastor Jennifer, our Monarch hatching queen! God bless you for using the talents He gave you to care for this special place.



Please Keep Our Less Fortunate Neighbors in Mind!

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

Please see the display in Fellowship Hall 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
July 14, 2026

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

Call to Order. President Kris Tobias called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendance. Present: Steve Bielefeldt, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Marcia Klemp, Connie Kreuser, Julie Leser, Amy Simdon, Kristin Rue, Richard Scott, John Jensen, Judy Heidebrecht (via Zoom), Janet Koepp, Kris Tobias. **Absent:** Peggy Punsel .

Devotions. Connie reflected on kindness, using scripture passages from Acts and Hebrews chapter 13, in addition to some meaningful quotations. Kindness demonstrates the goodness of humanity and the hope that Jesus has placed in our hearts. We can all try to make kindness a daily practice.

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

Approval of Agenda. Julie moved to approve the agenda. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence. Pastor passed around thank you notes from Gordie Grender and Catherine Elliott.

Eagle Scout projects. Sam Grender requested approval for a project to build three benches for the church. He attended this meeting to answer questions and provided an updated proposal, based on an earlier meeting with a few council members. We discussed locations, materials, size, funding, and a timeline for completion. Judy moved to approve the project. Marcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Steve Bielefeldt will sign off on Sam's proposal. A small work group has been suggested to gather future project ideas, establish Scout and congregational perspectives, and set up guidelines to manage any upcoming requests.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) We are experiencing the usual summer slump in giving and running behind last year's net loss numbers. There are no major changes. General giving is up \$14,453 from 2025; through June it was \$118,196. We have increased expenses but are still meeting our budget. Our YTD expenses through June of \$161,901 were \$6,834 more than last year and \$3,558 under budget. Janet moved to approve this report and send it to audit. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Pastor attended the rostered leaders meeting last week in Indianapolis and will be using their "woven" theme during August. She will be on vacation July 31 through Aug. 8; Brenda Lovick will preach on Aug. 2. On Aug. 16 Marian Korth will present a program on worship music, and we will dedicate the new baptismal font. She mentioned a new idea from the Monday Bible class about caring for creation on our own property by planting appropriate native plants in the ditches along Grace Lane and Potter's Road. Mowing these ditches is difficult and somewhat dangerous.

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

- **Stewardship.** Connie reported that St. Vinny's will pick up leftover items from the rummage sale on Monday morning, Aug. 10. At the conclusion of the August 7-8 sale, we plan to offer "shop for free" time from noon to 2:00 PM to selected clients. Connie has written a thank you message for the August newsletter, calling attention to many volunteers who help take care of our grounds and do other tasks without fanfare.
- **Outreach & Social Justice.** 100 personal care kits are completed and ready to ship in September. We will collect items for school kits in August. The Food Pantry has two or three new families every week and summer needs for kids out of school. It's now more difficult to obtain food through Second Harvest. Judy requested being added to CART's email distribution to find out about ongoing needs. The CART Coordinator is grateful for the offer from Grace. Judy asked for a new business item for August to discuss how to manage any requests going forward.
- **Education.** Kristin reported there will be no VBS this summer, and Sunday School will start on Sept. 13.

Old Business.

- **Compliance & Security Task Force.** No updates.
- **Yearly event calendar review.** Pr. Jennifer distributed a draft that Catherine has put together. Please send Pastor any edits and additions, as needed.
- **Wi-Fi Upgrade Project.** The need for improvements in our Wi-Fi network for Sunday School in the basement is known. We discussed the detailed proposal from GEEK POWERED that Kris Tobias distributed via email. Their proposed solution, project scope, equipment, installation, and deliverables are appropriate. The exclusions are acceptable. Charter will continue to be our Wi-Fi provider. To meet our goal of having this project completed by September we need to act. The proposed cost is \$3,965. John moved to accept the proposal. Kristin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. John also made a financing motion to use funds from property and designated Sunday School donations. Each would cover half of the cost. Marcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- **Rummage Sale.** Publicity posters are going up around town. Hospitality will provide light refreshments to make the event more community friendly.

New Business.

- **Summer programming & community outreach.** In response to an observation by Marcia about scams targeted at seniors, Judy mentioned upcoming free events for seniors presented through CAP. There is a poster on the kiosk in the entryway.
- **Eagle Scout projects.** Covered above.

Adjournment. Amy moved to adjourn the meeting. Kristin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned 8:17 PM, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Janet Koepp, Council Secretary

From the Treasurer

June 2026 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date June 2026 Actual	Year-to-date 2026 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	139,324	147,500	(8,176)
Special Giving	14,239	16,000	(1,761)
Misc Income	<u>2,172</u>	<u>1,958</u>	<u>214</u>
Total Income	155,735	165,458	(9,723)
Expenses			
Administrative	59,937	57,708	2,229
Mission	23,448	26,000	(2,552)
Pastoral	75,251	76,441	(1,190)
Program	3,266	5,310	(2,045)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	161,901	165,459	(3,558)
Total Net Income (Loss)	(6,167) (2)		(6,165)

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.

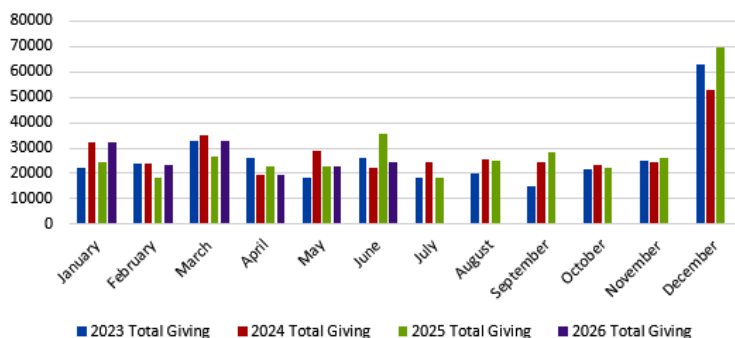
Let's continue trusting God together and giving with grateful hearts.

Thank you for being such a generous community!

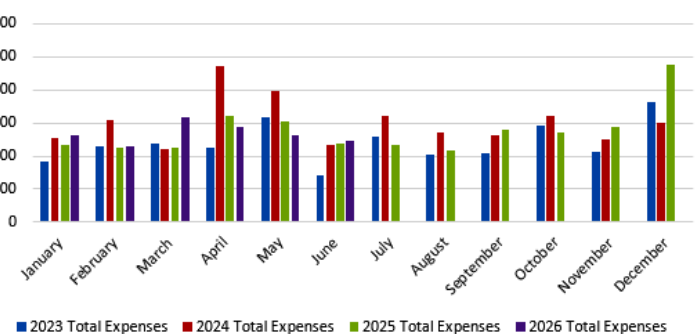


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Comparison of Total Giving - 2023-2026



Comparison of Total Expenses - 2023-2026





Staff and Council



STAFF

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Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com

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Organist Kenneth Hoversten kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com

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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