



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

March 2025 Newsletter

Pastor's Ponderings



How are you doing? With everything going on in our world, it's easy to feel weighed down, tired, and discouraged. I've talked to so many people who are feeling anxious, stressed-out, even hopeless about many different things. What do we do when we're feeling overburdened, sorrowful, on-edge, or lost?

When we're feeling that way, it's tempting to hole-up at home, in self-preservation mode. But then we tend to watch news that makes us even more anxious or "doom-scroll" on our devices, which increases our anxiety as well. We might not have the energy to engage with others or to do the things we typically do. But all of those things tend to cause us to sink deeper into our pain and worry.

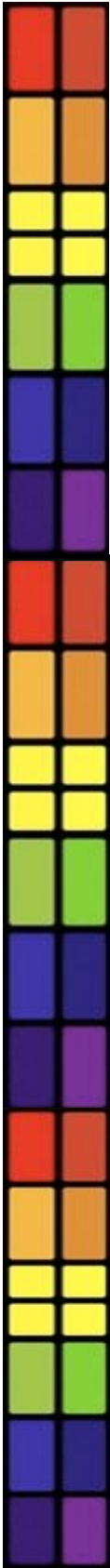
I think Christian community is one of the best remedies for these challenging times. As Christians, we're not called to "go-it-alone". We're called to be in community, to share our burdens, to lift one another up, to be encouraged when we're down. We can help bring light into one another's darkness, and others will help enlighten our voids as well. I have seen so many positive relationships built at church, at Grace, as well as other churches I've been part of. We don't just worship together, we learn together, laugh together, cry together, serve together, and support one another as we try to make our community and this world a better place. It's that kind of Christian community that we need right now.

We are followers of Jesus, called to engage in community with one another. So as we begin this Lenten season, join us at Grace, bringing your fears, your worries, your joys, and your hopes. Reach out to one another in love, building communities of support and grace, and we'll walk this journey together.

In Christ,
+ *Pastor Jennifer*

Church Directory & Pictorial Directory DEADLINE – MARCH 2

This is the last opportunity for you to edit or submit information and pictures for our Grace Directory and Pictorial Directory. Please don't assume that if you were in the 2019 directory, your information will transfer. We have a new database and are rebuilding the directory from scratch. If you haven't given us your contact information since summer of 2024, you aren't currently in the directory. We want you to be included! Please contact the church office ASAP to share your information, send a picture, or edit your profile.





New Member Gathering

Are you interested in joining Grace, or do you know somebody who is? On Sunday, March 2, we'll gather to get to know one another, share a bit about Grace, and talk about membership. We'll meet in the Conference room at 10:15 am. Interested? Please RSVP to Pastor Jennifer.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent, and this year it's on March 5. Join us for worship with the imposition of ashes and communion at Grace at 7 pm. Or start your Ash Wednesday with Ashes-on-the-Go in downtown Cambridge. Pastors will be offering the imposition of ashes outside Galleria 214 from 7-9 am. on March 5.

Midweek Lenten Worship

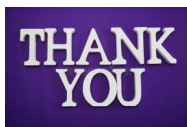
Starting March 12, join us on Wednesday evenings for midweek Lent services at 6:30 pm. We'll once again use Holden Evening Prayer, with the drama series, "The Making of 'Messiah: A Documentary.'" You'll meet brother and sister documentarian team Stan and Sylvia Silverman, filmmakers on a crazy quest to create an award-winning documentary about what and who the Messiah is.

Lent Soup Suppers

Prior to midweek Lenten worship, join us beginning March 12th for Lent Soup Suppers on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:15 pm. Want to help serve or bring soup? Check out the sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.



Snow Shovelers



Thanks so those who have kept our walkways clear! As winter (hopefully) winds down, we continue to look for volunteers to shovel walks after a snowstorm. If you can help, please sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

Want to worship from home? Here's how!

Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Spectrum cable channel 987 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>

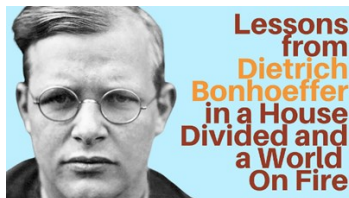
Emergency Weather Closing

If you question whether Grace is cancelling worship due to weather or an emergency, please check: Weather emergency closing announcements on Channel 3 (CBS), Channel 5 (NBC), Channel 27 (ABC), and Radio station WSJY (107.3 FM), as well as on Grace Lutheran's website, and on Grace's Facebook page.



Monday Night Bible Study

Join us as we explore the life and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the lessons we can use as we live at the intersection of faith and civic life today. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor and theologian living in Nazi Germany, who eventually joined the resistance and was arrested and killed before the end of WWII. This study will be held on Monday nights in March and April at 7:00 p.m. Please note the schedule below.



March 3 – It's About the Neighbor
March 10 – NO CLASS
March 17 – Faith is Worldly
March 24 – NO CLASS

Meals on Wheels

Grace is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels during the month of March. If you can help, please contact Marlene Hussey at (608) 513-6461 for details.

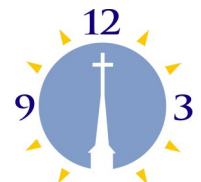
Easter Flowers



Later this month we will again be taking orders for Easter altar flowers. To place an order in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the order form found on the table in the Fellowship Hall, or contact the church office. Questions? Contact Sandi Aston Hall at (608) 422-2426.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Monday through 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



MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir 10:15 am New Member Gathering	3 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Bonhoeffer Study	4	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 7pm Worship	6	7	8
9 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15am Sanctuary Choir	10 9:30 am Quilters	11 7pm Council Meeting	12 9 am Lydia Circle 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Worship	13 2 pm Staff Mtg	14	15 Newsletter content due
16 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	17 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Bonhoeffer Study	18	19 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Worship	20	21	22
23 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	24 9:30 am Quilters	25	26 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Worship	27	28	29
30 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	31 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Bonhoeffer Study	APR 1	2	3	4	5

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



What We're Learning

We're thinking SPRING in Sunday School—the season for new beginnings! Whether you're cleaning out parts of your home or watching the flowers bloom in your garden, it's a time for new life and growth. Like a good gardener, Jesus wanted to help cultivate the seeds of faith in his friends so they could all grow closer to God. In this series, kids will learn all about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as he sowed the seeds of new life in the world. Kids will discover that God sent Jesus to save us, Jesus understands when we're hurting, makes all things new, and connects us to God. Reminder there is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on March 23rd or 30th for Spring Break.



Sunday School Dates to Remember

March 23rd and 30th: No Sunday School (Spring Break)

April 13th (Palm Sunday): RISEN Easter Event

May 25th: Kids Takeover Worship

Confirmation Corner



Lent begins on March 5, so Confirmation will be on hiatus until after Easter. During Lent, Students and mentors will set up times to meet for 3 sessions on Holy Communion, and students are to attend Wednesday night Lent services.

Baptism

Skylar Rose Paluch - Feb. 16, 2025

Outreach and Social Justice



MANY, many thanks to the generous people of our Grace community who provided food and funds in support of the Bluejay Backpack campaign. Your kindness and generosity allowed our Cambridge Food Pantry to distribute bags of food and snacks to 30 children grades K through 5 in the Cambridge School District. The Backpack program ensures

these students facing food insecurity have access to meals/snacks on weekends and holidays when school is closed.

Thank you also to everyone who contributed to our local Food Pantry food drive. The compassion of our Grace community and your desire to help those struggling in our local community is truly amazing! A heartfelt "THANK YOU" from your Outreach Team!



2025 Lenten Challenge

It is now time to begin our annual Lenten Challenge. Our focus this year will be refugees here in the US. Refugees have been forced to flee their homes due to war, violence, and/or persecution, and many spend up to 17 years in refugee camps. They are here legally, having been invited

by our government after a 2-5 year intensive vetting process. They are authorized for employment and expected to work. The goal is self-sufficiency. And Lutheran Social Services Refugee Resettlement Program helps them do this.

What can we do? Our goal is to raise \$2000 by Easter Sunday, April 20th. Will you join us as we reach out to help our brothers and sisters who have sought refuge from war and persecution? Watch for further announcements.

"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

Member Deaths/Funerals

Louise Butterbaugh - Jan. 21, 2025

Viola Behm - Jan. 24, 2025

Eunice Bennin - Jan. 26, 2025, Funeral Feb. 3, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2025

(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)

Call to Order. President Kelly Witte called the meeting to order at 1:29 PM following our 2025 council retreat.

Attendance. Present: Steve Bielefeldt, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Marcia Klemp, Connie Kreuser, Charlene Luchterhand, April Mickelson, Peggy Punsel, Richard Scott, Amy Simdon, Kelly Witte. **Absent:** Sandi Aston Hall, John Jensen, Kristin Rue.

Devotions. Pr. Jennifer led us in prayer during the retreat, prior to the start of this meeting.

Approval of Minutes. Peggy moved to approve the January minutes. April seconded the motion, and the minutes. Unanimously approved by those who attended the January meeting.

Approval of Agenda. Under Old Business, we revised the topic of Basement Carpet to Carpet, to include discussion of carpet in other areas. Char moved to approve the amended agenda. Richard seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence. None.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) We had a net gain of \$1,108 in January. Our General Giving for January was \$9,515 less than 2024 and \$2,569 less than the 2025 budget. The January Special Giving was \$1,881 more than last year and \$2,225 less than the budget. Our January expenses were \$1,892 less than last year and \$3,211 under budget. The checking balance was \$624 more than at the end of December with the general fund balance approximately \$689 less. Amy has no concerns at this time. Richard moved to approve this treasurer's report and send it to audit. Marcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Three members have passed in 2025 so far. Pr. officiated at funerals for Lois Everson and Eunice Bennin. Lent will be starting on March 5. Updating the church directory has been a challenge for church staff, with many members not responding. Pr. has contacted many people directly. The final cutoff for the directory will be March 2. A new digital program is being used. Information will not be transferred from the old system. If anyone has not provided their contact information and photo since this was first announced this past summer, their information will not be included. This respects the privacy of some who may not want their information to be shared. We need to think about how to pay for bound, printed directories and discuss at a future meeting.

Committee Reports. (Provided in writing and/or discussed in the meeting as needed.)
None.

Old Business.

- **Communion Rail Cushions.** We chose fabric D4694—Fossil from the 23 swatches ordered from Charlotte Fabrics. Connie moved that we proceed with Heirloom Furniture Repair in Jefferson. April seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Char will contact Pete Zehren at Heirloom and work with the Property Committee on next steps.
- **Personal Safety Task Force.** Has not met yet.
- **Carpet.** Richard requested an estimate from Cross Town Floors in Jefferson for new carpet in the basement and the Administrative Assistant's office. Replacing the carpet in the office is a safety issue. He will request more direction from the Education Department regarding their needs, as the property budget will be stretched by other items, such as replacing outdoor lighting (some of which is not working) with LED lights. Char (based on Pr. Jennifer's knowledge) noted that we only have one unused sanctuary carpet segment and might need more if the carpet were to be damaged. We might want to order more to have on hand, as it is a unique pattern. That carpet was purchased from Sergenians in Madison. We discussed spot cleaning of some areas in the sanctuary.

New Business. None.

Adjournment. Amy moved to adjourn the meeting. Peggy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:16 PM. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand, Council Secretary



From the Treasurer

January 2025 Financial Snapshot

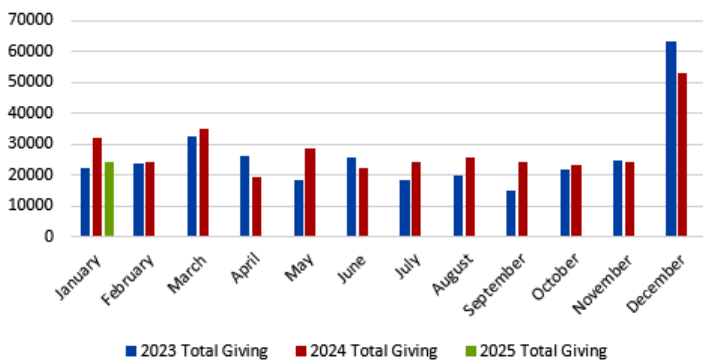
Income	Year-to-date January 2025 Actual	Year-to-date 2025 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	21,389	23,958	(2,569)
Special Giving	3,136	2,500	636
Misc Income	1	293	(292)
Total Income	24,526	26,751	(2,225)
Expenses			
Administrative	9,794	9,405	389
Mission	2,853	4,333	(1,480)
Pastoral	10,654	12,096	(1,442)
Program	207	885	(678)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	23,508	26,719	(3,211)
Total Net Income (Loss)	1,018	32	986

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and stewardship. Please remember that in addition to the Sunday service, you can give online through Vanco (<https://www.vancopayments.com/login>) or through Venmo, using the QR code.

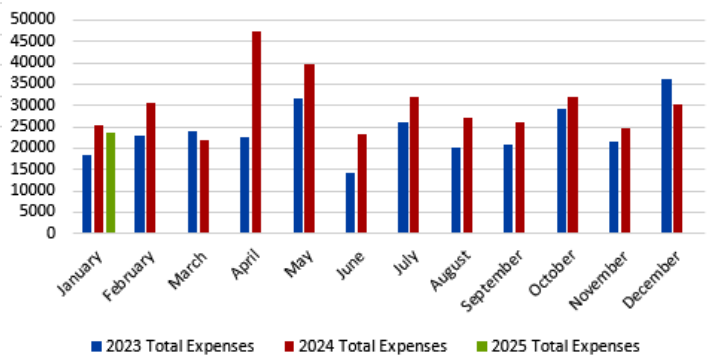


venmo

Comparison of Total Giving - 2023/2024/2025



Comparison of Total Expenses - 2023/2024/2025





Staff and Council



STAFF

Pastor Jennifer Jelinek Cell: (608) 295-7120 pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com

Admin Assistant Catherine Elliott (608) 423-3135 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

Christian Ed Coordinator Breah Klemp christianedu.glc@gmail.com

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 Steve Bielefeldt

Secretary Char Luchterhmand

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Kristin Rue

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

Evangelism Marcia Klemp

Worship Sandi Ashton Hall

Property John Jensen

Property Richard Scott



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