



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

OCTOBER 2025 Newsletter

Pastor's Ponderings



I write to you on the eve of what would've been Erik's and my 25th wedding anniversary. And what a life we had, serving churches together for 16 years, having 2 awesome kids, traveling to bucket list places most people have to wait until retirement to visit. We've known for over 15 years that Erik wouldn't live long enough for us to get old together, but we're pretty blessed to have at least made it into our 50s together and to have had so many incredible

experiences as a family.

People with Stage 4 ALK+ lung cancer almost never live over a year, much less 10+ years. Very few live otherwise healthy lives for this long. His cancer was discovered by accident, and awesome doctors and the miracles of science kept him alive and reasonably well for longer than anybody expected. But in addition to that, I absolutely credit Erik's blessedly-long cancer journey to the many, many faith communities and individuals who have prayed for him all these years. Some people are on church prayer lists for a week or a month. Erik was a fixture on many prayer chains for years, thanks to hundreds of faithful praying people and our incredible God of healing.

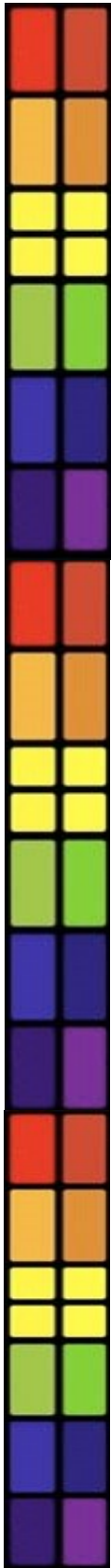
For me, this whole experience has reinforced the incredible blessing of community. For my whole ministry, I've met people who say, "I believe in Jesus. I just don't need church." And indeed, churches can be difficult places, sometimes filled with conflict and pain and judgment. Why? Because churches are made up of sinful people. Churches aren't places for perfect people, they're hospitals for sinners, like us. People leave churches, not because they've stopped believing in Jesus, but because of the pain they've experienced at churches. And churches can and must do better.

But the last few months have reminded me that church community is essential. We need each other, and we most embody our calling as the body of Christ when we come together and care for one another in community. We need community to lift us up, to feed us, and to hold us accountable. It's pretty tough to be a Christian on your own, because ours isn't a "me & Jesus" faith. Jesus called us to be church together. We make each other better. None of us are good at everything, but in community, we can do amazing things together.

And I've seen that in countless ways. There's no way that I can adequately express my gratitude for all the love, support, cards, meals, memorials, and food that you all have so generously shared in the last couple months. This community has lived out your calling to care for one another in profound ways that I'll be forever grateful for. Erik's visitation and funeral were enormous undertakings, but your hospitality made that weekend a beautiful expression of your love and faith, truly living out our name – Grace Lutheran Church. It's my job to care for you, but you've done such an awesome job of caring for me and my family as well. Thank you for being my community. May God bless us as we continue to be community for one another. I love you all.

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





Confirmation Corner

Confirmation Sunday for our 3rd year students, parents, and mentors is October 19 at 9 am. There will be a Confirmation Dessert Reception and Rehearsal the previous Wednesday – October 15 at 7:30 pm.



Our 7th-8th grade Confirmation class continues studying the Old Testament this month. Our first Mentor Night will be on Wednesday, October 1 at 6:30 pm.

A Celebration of Norwegian Heritage on Koshkonong Prairie



Interested in the history of Koshkonong Prairie and the churches that grew up here? You're invited to participate in *A Celebration of Norwegian Heritage on Koshkonong Prairie*; an event at St. Paul's Liberty Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 12 from noon to 2:30 pm. Grace members are invited to share a summary of our history, invite the community, and bring Norwegian treats to share. If you'd like to participate, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

All Saints Slideshow

On All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 2), we'll remember those who have passed away in the last year and are now saints in God's kingdom. We'll have a slideshow with names and pictures of those who have died since last All Saints' Sunday. If you have a loved one whose name and picture you'd like to include, please e-mail or bring it to the church office by Oct. 26. gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

MEMBER FUNERAL

Erik Jelinek - September 6, 2025

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 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com



New Security Measures

Our new Safety Task Force is working on making Grace a safer, healthier place for all. We recently had new smoke/carbon monoxide detectors installed throughout the building. Our next project is making sure our Sunday School is as secure as possible. Each Sunday, once Sunday School begins, the side door and the back doors of the church will be locked at 10:20. They will be unlocked again at 11:00 when Sunday School ends. The front doors will remain unlocked throughout the morning. You can always get out of any of the doors, even if they're locked. So if you need to get into the building between 10:20-11:00, please use the front door.

Monday Night Adult Study

Join us any of the upcoming Monday nights as we continue watching "The Chosen," Season 5 together. Because most videos are around an hour, we'll start at 6:45 pm to allow for discussion time afterward. Come join us!



Community Dinner October 2

It's Grace Lutheran's turn to host the Cambridge Community Dinner on Thursday, October 2, at Cambridge High School! If you weren't able to sign up to volunteer, don't worry! You may still contact Pat Hall, who is coordinating this event, to sign up. We will need kitchen workers on Wednesday and Thursday to help Tony Buonincontro prepare the meal. There are also spots for setup, servers, clean up and dessert makers. If you can't be there to help, monetary donations are always appreciated.

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://](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw)

www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS



- Oct 5** - Ushers: Amy Simdon & Jennifer Budewitz Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen
Reader: Amy Simdon
Communion Servers: Gordie Grender & Marcia Klemp
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Coffee Hour Hosts: Kilburg & Koepp
- Oct 12** - Ushers: Pat Hall & Connie Kreuser Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts
Reader: Amanda Kress
Communion Servers: Bill & Betty Reay
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Coffee Hour: Cunninghams
- Oct 19** - Ushers: Alice Wolfgram & Jeanine Thurow Assisting Minister: Jeff Gafner
Reader: Jim Leser
Communion Servers: Gordie Grender & Shauna Thayer
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Coffee Hour Hosts: Tatlock & Reay
- Oct 26** - Ushers: Donna Simdon & Marcia Sivesind Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman
Reader: Lori Jensen
Communion Servers: Tom & Chris Watson
Communion Set Up: Geis Family
Coffee Hour Hosts: Gafner & Witte/Collin



Altar Guild - Marcia Klemp, Lori Jensen & Brenda Lovick

OCTOBER AT GRACE

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	29 7pm Adult Study	30	1 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	2 5:30 pm Community Meal	3	4
5 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	6 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Adult Study	7	8 9 am Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Confirmation	9 2 pm Staff Mtg	10	11
12 FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	13 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Adult Study	14 7 pm Council Meeting	15 6:30 pm Confirmation Newsletter content due	16	17	18
19 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	20 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Adult Study	21	22	23	24	25
26 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	27 7pm Adult Study	28	29 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 6:30 pm Confirmation	30	31	1

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



Sunday School is Underway!

We kicked off our Sunday School on September 8th! Families joined us to create Cross Braids showing the importance weaving of God, family, and community along our faith journey. We're excited for the year up ahead! Classes run each Sunday after Worship from 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM. Special thanks to this year's Sunday School Teachers: Kristin Rue and Kristine Schutte (Pre-K/Kindergarten), Rory Sullivan and Josie Punsel (1st/2nd Grade), Robin Marsden (3rd Grade), Erin Sterwald (4th Grade), and Bridgette Hermanson (5th Grade).

What We're Learning

Starting October 19th, we will start our new series, Famous! Lots of kids dream about becoming famous... and why shouldn't they? It sounds awesome to have fans who celebrate your wins with you! On the flip side, it would be pretty tough to have people always watching, even when you're not having the best day. In Famous, we are going to talk about a family in the Bible who lived in such a spotlight. Through their stories, kids will learn that no matter our celebrity status, we can make things right, God gives us friends, we can ask for God's guidance, we can give God what we have. Fame and fans may come and go, but you don't need to be liked by everyone when you're loved by God!



First Communion and 5th Graders



First Communion is an exciting and important step in Christian education, and we are thrilled to walk alongside our 5th graders as they learn more about this meaningful tradition and its symbolism in our faith! At this age, students are ready to understand the importance of Communion, and we look forward to the lessons over the next few weeks that will help prepare them for this special milestone. Please join us in Worship on October 12th @ 9:00 AM to celebrate this exciting time in their lives! We want to send a huge thank you to Jill Jensen for continuing to teach our 1st Communion students!

Lutheran World Relief Kits & Quilts Update

Our congregation successfully collected items for 25 Baby Care Kits, 104 School Kits and our quilters created 116 beautiful quilts. In addition, we compiled 100 Personal Care Kits!

Special thanks to each and every one of you who donated the many items that come together for these special projects. These kits and quilts would not be possible without your generous efforts to help others.

We would also like to thank the following individuals: Pat Northey and Kathy McCarthy for assembling the Baby Care Kits; Jean Scott for organizing the School Kits with help from the confirmation class who check the bags every year; Pat Hall for assembling the Personal Care Kits; and Dr. Angela Bauer for the toothbrushes donated for the Personal Care Kits. Special thanks to Richard Scott for delivering all our packages to the train station on time!

One more heartfelt thanks for the gift of time and talent from our quilting group who continue to meet on Monday mornings. They welcome the sheets and batting donations that are needed to create the quilts. The group will be starting another batch of quilts to be sent next September. Of course, donations and helpers are always welcome!



God's work. Our hands.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2025

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

Call to Order. President Kelly Witte called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

Absent: April Mickelson, John Jensen .

Devotions. Sandi shared his faith journey and led us in prayer.

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

Approval of Agenda. Sandi moved to approve the agenda. Char seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence. Received an invitation to participate in A Celebration of Norwegian Heritage on Koshkonong Prairie. The event takes place at St. Paul's Liberty Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 12 from noon to 2:30 PM. We are invited to share a summary of our history, invite our members and the community, and bring Norwegian treats to share.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) We had a net gain of \$3,542 in August, giving us a total loss of \$4,954 for the year. Our General Giving through August was \$7,034 less than 2024 and \$12,883 less than the 2025 budget. The Special Giving through August was \$3,498 less than last year and \$5,383 less than budget. If the sabbatical and Youth Gathering expenses are not included, the expenses through August were \$1,237 more than last year and we were \$13,771.31 under budget. The checking balance was \$2,492 less than at the end of July with the general fund balance approximately \$3,582 less. Marcia moved to approve the treasurer's report and send it to audit. Char seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Confirmation classes will start tomorrow. Planning is underway for the pre-confirmation class, i.e., sixth graders. Everyone is invited to a talk on Christian Nationalism entitled Jesus and John Wayne Sunday night at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison. Pastor offered "huge thanks" for all the prayers, support, and help provided during her husband Erik's health decline, passing, and memorial service. Since he was the primary on their health insurance through Portico, and cost was shared between our church and Erik's former church, the cost of the family's health insurance may increase. Pastor offered that the Silver Plus plan rather than the current Gold Plus plan would now provide adequate coverage for the family and would help reduce the cost.

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

Education. (Kristin) First day of Sunday School was 9/7/25. Wi-Fi in the basement still does not connect. Sunday School staff to speak with Kris Tobias.

Outreach & Social Justice. (April) School kits will be checked with the confirmation students on September 10. Jean and Richard Scott plan to meet the train on September 15 to ship 100 personal care kits, 25 baby care kits, over 100 school kits and 116 quilts. These kits were blessed in church on September 7. We will collect 100 bags/boxes of stuffing for the Food Pantry in November. Both Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner spreadsheets will be sent by Kerry Marren, Community Outreach & Communications Coordinator, soon for additional sign-ups. Kerry will also appreciate any help we can give with the Blue Jay backpacks again this year. The October 2 community dinner is still on! Tony Buonincontro is willing to cook, so we have an excellent start. Sign up for various parts of the dinner will be out September 21. Easter is April 5; we will start brainstorming our next Lenten Challenge near the end of the year.

Old Business.

- **Church Preservation Projects/Bids.** Smoke detectors have now been installed—3 upstairs, 2 downstairs, with one spare. Seven boxes of paper were taken to a shredding event. Matt Frey will again provide snow removal.
- **Membership Enlightenment.** Pastor spoke with the parents of Sunday School students about connecting Sunday School and worship together. The carnival went well and was enjoyable. Communion Kneeling Cushions. Several members expressed appreciation. We hope the cushions have been helpful for others as well.
- **Safety Task Force.** An intercom communication system is located downstairs. Considering Ring cameras. Planning to lock the back and side doors while Sunday School is in session. [Those inside can still get out.] Need a diagram of the church building, so we can post the locations of exits and items, such as fire extinguishers and the defibrillator. Planning will continue to address all potential safety issues.

New Business.

- **Jelinek Memorials.** Current idea: weatherproof bench near the pollinator garden. There may be additional funds available for other items.
- **Council Membership Roles.** For our November meeting, all Council members are to review their own position description in their respective binders to determine if we are doing what is written and if any duties need to be added, deleted, or revised.

Adjournment. Sandi moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14, at 7:00 PM. Kristin is scheduled to present devotions.

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand, Council Secretary

From the Treasurer

August 2025 Financial Snapshot

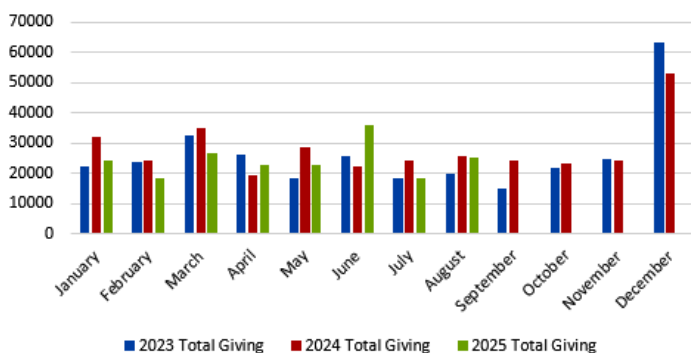
Income	Year-to-date August 2025 Actual	Year-to-date 2025 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	178,783	191,667	(12,883)
Special Giving	14,617	20,000	(5,383)
Misc Income	1,629	2,343	(714)
Total Income	195,029	214,010	(18,981)
Expenses			
Administrative	72,625	75,239	(2,614)
Mission	29,040	34,667	(5,627)
Pastoral	93,804	96,768	(2,965)
Program	4,514	7,080	(2,566)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	199,983	213,754	(13,771)
Total Net Income	(4,954)	256	(5,209)

We're still a bit behind in our giving. 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.

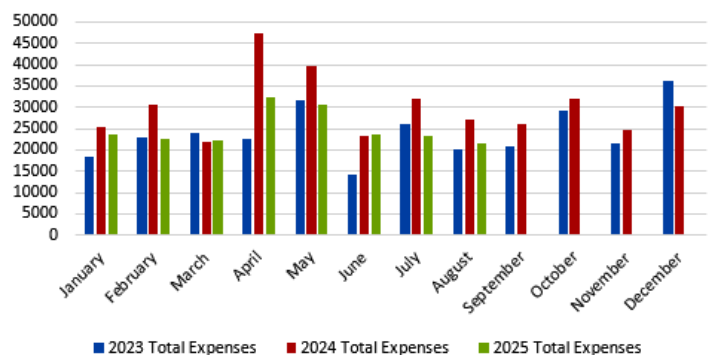
Let's continue trusting God together and giving with grateful hearts.

Thank you for being such a generous community!

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 Luchterhand

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Kristin Rue

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

Evangelism Marcia Klemp

Worship Sandi Aston Hall

Property John Jensen

Property Richard Scott



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

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cambridge, WI
Permit No. 501

| *Return Service Requested*

Place address sticker here;
no higher please

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love.

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

Visit us our website at www.gracelutherancambridge.org

We broadcast
on Channel
987

