



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

March 2026 Newsletter

Pastor's Ponderings



We start this month on a Sunday, and as we hear another healing story in worship, we'll also have opportunity to participate in a Healing Service. When I started doing healing services in my last congregation, people were intimidated. "You want me to walk in front of everybody to ask for prayers for healing? Nope!" So I said, "Why not give everybody a reason to get up and walk around?" That's how our healing stations were born, including the ever-popular Stress Shredder. It was a success because we broadened people's idea of who needs healing and what healing can look like. In fact, we all need God's hand of healing in some way, whether it be physical, mental, spiritual, or relational.

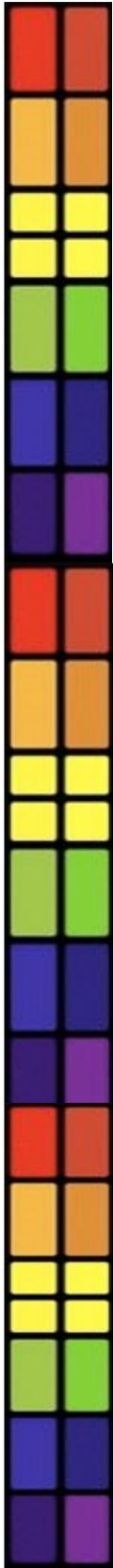
So what does healing look like? Of course, healing can look like the gradual recovery from surgery, illness, or injury. *But healing can also look like...*

- ... discovering the courage and support to make that big change.*
- ... finally naming the thing that's been weighing on you.*
- ... asking for forgiveness.*
- ... letting go of the anger and hurt for what someone has done to you.*
- ... tears of sorrow or tears of joy.*
- ... a letter, message, or phone call to start repairing a relationship.*
- ... finding the energy to stand up for yourself or others.*
- ... realizing you're not alone.*
- ... helping someone else.*
- ... a sense of peace and comfort you've been hoping for.*
- ... good news.*
- ... sharing your burdens with God and others.*
- ... accepting help.*
- ... receiving a diagnosis, a treatment plan, a new course of action.*
- ... letting go of old dreams to be open to new ones.*
- ... accepting an ending.*
- ... a new beginning.*

Lent is a time for introspection and healing as we remember everything Jesus has done to bring wholeness to our broken world. Whether or not you're able to join us for the Healing Service on March 1, may God bless you with healing, wholeness, and a constant sense of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life.

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*



Midweek Lenten Worship

Join us each Wednesday this month as we worship together at 6:30 pm with much-beloved Holden Evening Prayer and a drama series called "Bread for the Journey." Each week, various biblical characters will share stories of how God fed, blessed, and saved his people through bread.



March 4 – Unleavened Bread
March 11 – Bread from Heaven
March 18 – Daily Bread
March 25 – Abundant Bread

Soup Suppers

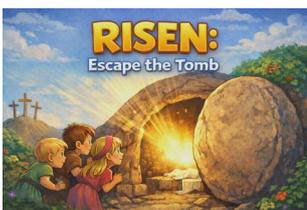
What's Lent without Lenten Soup Suppers? Lent Soup Suppers will be held from 5:30-6:15 on Wednesday nights from Feb 25 – March 25, where we'll share soup and homemade bread together. We're looking for folks to bring soup and help serve this month. Interested? Sign up in the Fellowship Hall and make sure to let us know if your soup is vegetarian or gluten-free, for those with dietary restrictions.



Healing Service

We live in a world in need of healing, and we too need God to bring us healing and wholeness to our bodies, minds, and relationships. On Sunday, March 1, we'll have a Healing Service during worship, with opportunities for laying on of hands and prayers for healing, as well as several other interactive healing stations for you to participate in. Come, join us as we pray for healing for our world, our loved ones, and ourselves.

RISEN: Escape the Tomb



We are looking forward to this year's RISEN Sunday School Easter event, Escape the Tomb! On March 22 during Sunday School, our students will work together to crack the mystery of Holy Week as they meet witnesses, follow clues, and uncover the story of the empty tomb. Through this interactive experience, kids will explore the events of Easter in a hands-on way and discover the hope and joy of the resurrection!

Augustana College Band Concert

On Tuesday, March 24, Cambridge will be hosting a concert by the Augustana Symphonic Band, premier band of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois (an ELCA college). Grace's own Sierra Jelinek plays in the band. All are welcome to this free concert, which will be held at Nikolay Middle School at 7 pm. Grace will be hosting dinner for the band before the concert. Interested in helping? Contact Pastor Jennifer.



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>

Monday Night Adult Study

As we journey through Lent together, we continue our video discussion series, "Why Easter Matters" by Andy Stanley. Come for one or all of the sessions - Monday nights at 7 pm.

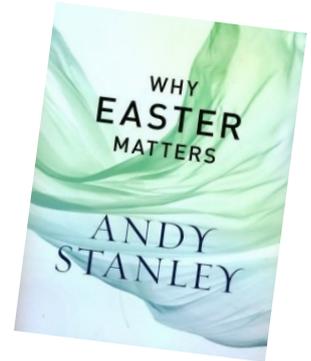
March 2 – Why Easter Matters

March 9 - *No Class*

March 16 – Why Easter Matters

March 23 – Why Easter Matters

March 30 – *No Class*



November MAJM Winter Clothing Drive a Success

Back in late November, GLC participated in a winter clothing drive to support MAJM (Madison Area Jail Ministry) and folks being released from jail in Dane County. These are people who often have no winter apparel and normally are overlooked and forgotten.



Our congregation donated numerous clothing items, including winter coats & jackets, sweaters & pants, hats, mittens, scarves and gloves, and even some personal care items such as toothbrushes.

Many thanks to Pat Northey and Judy Heidebrecht, who helped to sort all the items and bag them up for delivery in early December. In all, over 20 bags were delivered to MAJM.



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

MARCH VOLUNTEERS



- Mar 1** - Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen
Reader: Mandi Buonincontro
Communion Servers: Mandi Buonincontro & Jean Scott
Acolytes: Eleanor Mabie & Griffin Sullivan
Communion Set Up: Pat Hall
Coffee Hour Hosts: Outreach
- Mar 8** - Ushers: Felix & Jan Egli Assisting Minister: Rich Fronек
Reader: Jim Leser
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tami Collin
Acolytes: Paige Neuenschwander & Ashton Thayer
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
Coffee Hour: Northey & Knoff
- Mar 15** - Ushers: Justin & Angela Williams Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman
Reader: Sandi Aston Hall
Communion Servers: Gordie Grender & Shauna Thayer
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
Acolytes: Bentley Bauler
Coffee Hour Hosts: Aston Hall & Johnson
- Mar 22** - Ushers: Dale & Marcia Klemp Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke
Reader: April Mickelson
Communion Servers: April Mickelson & Rachael Drotzer
Communion Set Up: Geis Family
Acolytes: Jackson & Josephine Rue
Coffee Hour: Grender & Drotzer
- Mar 29** - Ushers: Pat & Al Northey Assisting Minister: Diane Fronек
Reader: Tom Watson
Communion Tom & Chris Watson
Communion Set Up: Pat Northey
Acolytes: Blake & Avery Schutte
Coffee Hour Hosts: Fowler & Heidebrecht

Altar Guild - Brenda, Haven, and Cally Lovick

MARCH AT GRACE

| Sunday | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1 9 am HEALING Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:15 Sunday School | 2 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study | 3 | 4 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:15 Sunday School | 9 9:30 am Quilters NO Adult Study | 10 7 pm Council Meeting | 11 9 am Lydia Circle 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Service | 12 10am Staff Mtg | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:15 Sunday School | 16 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study Newsletter content due | 17 | 18 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Service | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 "RISEN" EASTER EVENT 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:15 Sunday School | 23 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study | 24 7pm ASB Concert at NMS | 25 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Service | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Choir Rehearsal | 30 9:30 am Quilters | 31 | Apr 1 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee | 2 Maundy Thursday | 3 Good Friday | 4 |

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



Share the Love Day

On February 15th our Sunday School classes celebrated Valentine's Day with friends! They were invited to bring along a friend (or two!) to join us for crafts and stations focusing on how we can continue to share the love of Jesus. They left with ideas for their hands and hearts, as well as painted river rocks to share with someone they love.



What We are Learning

We're gearing up for Easter and a new series in Sunday School: Clue! This series kicks off with the greatest news ever—Jesus is alive! But even his closest friends were surprised by what they discovered.

Each week, kids will follow the clues in the Bible, looking at the stories leading up to Easter and connecting them to other moments in Jesus' life and ministry. Along the way, they'll see that the Bible isn't just full of clues about who Jesus is—it's the complete story of God's love. In this 4-week series, kids will learn that the Bible says Jesus is alive, the Bible tells us Jesus loves us, the Bible reveals who Jesus is, and the Bible shows us how to share God's love.



Confirmation Corner



During Lent, our students will be meeting with their mentors to read the Gospel of Mark together. In place of class, they'll attend the Wednesday night Lent services, which are at 6:30 p.m. with Soup Supper preceding. This is a great opportunity to make up sermon notes.

LENTEN CHALLENGE

We have all seen pictures and read about the crisis in Gaza that began in October 2023. Although bombings may have lessened, hardships continue for the people of Palestine. Lutheran Disaster Response continues to work with partners in the Holy Land to provide not only immediate needs such as food, water, clothing, and shelter, but also health services, medical supplies for hospitals, and education support, to name just a few things.



The Outreach Committee has chosen Gaza as our Lenten Challenge for 2026. Our goal is to raise \$2000 by Easter Sunday, April 5th. Donations

will be sent to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, which uses 100% of donations for the designated program. More information can be found on a display near the church entrance. Contributions may be made by check or VENMO, made out to Grace Lutheran, with *Lenten Challenge* in the memo line. Thank you for caring for our neighbors!

Food Pantry Donations Welcome!

Just a quick reminder, donations at either the Food Pantry at the Cambridge Middle School and/or the basket at the west entrance of the church are much appreciated. Items most needed: Hamburger Helper, corned beef hash, canned pastas, Spam, coffee, ketchup, low-sugar cereal, laundry detergent pods and dish soap. Of course, any and all donations are welcome. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



Thank you



A big thank you from the Cambridge School District and Cambridge Music Boosters for the many Grace folks who volunteered their time at the Solo & Ensemble Competition held at CHS this year. Couldn't have done it without you!

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2026**

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

Call to Order. President Kris Tobias called the meeting to order at 1d:09 PM following the Council retreat and lunch.

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

Devotions. Pr. Jennifer read a passage from chapter 8 of Romans. She shared a reflection on how nothing can separate us from God's love and gave an opening prayer.

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

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

Correspondence. Two notes were received and have been posted in the entry area.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) We had a net gain of \$5,891 in January. Our General Giving for January was \$31,200 which was \$9,811 more than 2025 and \$6,617 more than the 2026 budget. The January Special Giving of \$1,640 was \$2,096 less than last year and \$1,627 less than the budget. Our January expenses of \$26,349 were \$2,841 more than last year and \$1,227 under budget. The checking account balance was \$3,594 less than at the end of December, with the general fund balance approximately \$5,610 more. The main reason for the decrease in the checking balance is the transfer of \$10,000 from the Building Fund to a CD. Amy mentioned that the insurance bill is now paid quarterly, instead of annually. Peggy moved to approve this report and send it to audit. Judy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- **Pastor's Report.** Pr. Jennifer reviewed the basics of the monthly meetings, passed around a list to verify current contact information, distributed a sign-up sheet for devotions, and shared plans for Ash Wednesday and Lent. The theme will be "Bread for the Journey" and will incorporate a drama series. The soup suppers will include various breads; council will provide soups for the first one on Wednesday, February 25. She announced the Augustana College Symphonic Band (Sierra is a member) will perform at Cambridge High School on March 24.

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

- **Stewardship.** Connie passed out a list of information gathered from the “time and talent” forms, which will be helpful for committee chairs.
- **Hospitality.** The first monthly potluck dinner for church and community members will be held on Fat Tuesday, February 17. These dinners will be paused during Lent.
- **Outreach & Social Justice.** Judy reported this year’s Lenten Challenge has a goal to raise \$2,000 for those in need in the Gaza strip and Holy Land. We will work through the ELCA& Lutheran Disaster Response.

Old Business.

- **Church Property.** (John & Richard)) A new water cooler was purchased from Menard’s. Wi-Fi in the basement is an ongoing issue for Sunday School.
- **Council Discussion of Committee Roles and Operations Manual.** These topics were discussed during the council retreat which preceded this meeting. There are several committees that have a natural overlap in the overall function of the congregation. The Operations Manual from 2016 is being edited and reorganized to reflect current duties of the committees and the responsibilities of each position.
- **Compliance.** Steve discussed the two documents he provided last month: 1) a table of how long various church records need to be retained, and 2) information on the IRS taxability of gifts to pastors and staff.
- **Visitor Brochure.** Marcia, Randy Luchterhand, Mary Bielefeldt, and Pr. Jennifer have met to discuss a revised tri-fold brochure being drafted. Other locations for distribution were suggested.

New Business.

- **Security Task Force.** The group has met and has quite a few personal safety topics to follow up on: building maps, AED training, weather and other emergencies, kitchen safety, and a possible ICE protocol. Julie asked if there are Synod resources that would be helpful.

Adjournment. John moved to adjourn the meeting. Julie seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned 1:48 PM. We ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Janet Koepp, Council Secretary

From the Treasurer

January 2026 Financial Snapshot

| Income | Year-to-date January 2026 Actual | Year-to-date 2025 Monthly Budget | Over/(under) budget |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| General Giving | 31,200 | 24,583 | 6,617 |
| Special Giving | 1,040 | 2,667 | (1,627) |
| Misc Income | <u>1</u> | <u>326</u> | <u>(325)</u> |
| Total Income | 32,241 | 27,576 | 4,664 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Administrative | 11,466 | 9,618 | 1,848 |
| Mission | 2,188 | 4,333 | (2,146) |
| Pastoral | 12,054 | 12,740 | (686) |
| Program | 642 | 885 | (243) |
| Other | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Expenses | 26,349 | 27,577 | (1,227) |
| Total Net Income (Loss) | 5,891 | (0) | 5,892 |

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.

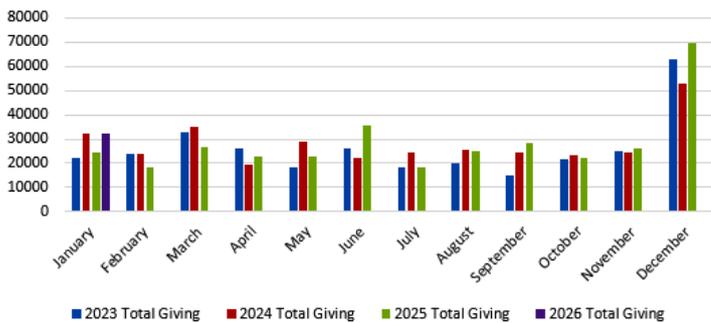
Let's continue trusting God together and giving with grateful hearts.

Thank you for being such a generous community!

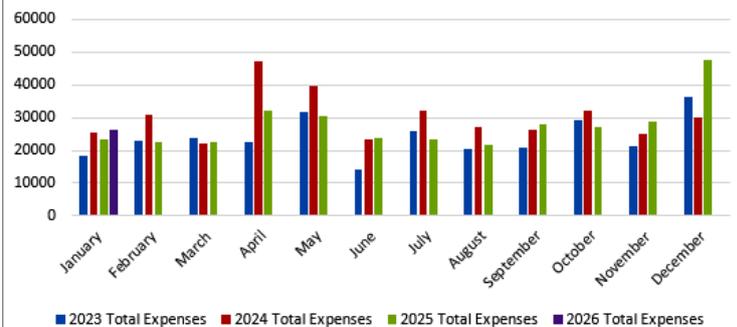


venmo

Comparison of Total Giving - 2023-2026



Comparison of Total Expenses - 2023-2026





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 Kris Tobias

Vice President Steve Bielefeldt

Secretary Janet Koepp

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach Judy Heidebrecht

Education Kristin Rue

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

Evangelism Marcia Klemp

Worship Julie Leser

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.

Check Us Out!

We broadcast on Channel 987

Visit us our website at www.gracelutherancambridge.org

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