



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## FEBRUARY 2025 Newsletter

### Pastor's Ponderings

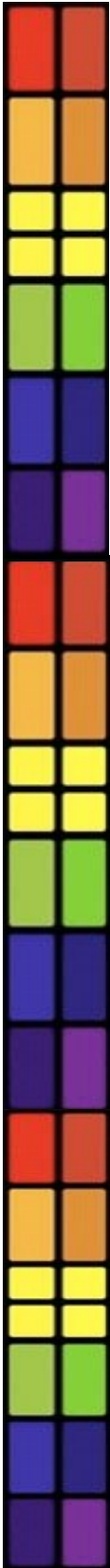


Last week, I found myself at 2 funerals in 2 days – the funeral of a beloved Grace member and the father of a family friend. Both services were inspiring celebrations of the people we lost. Growing up with lots of extended family, I had many opportunities to go to weddings and funerals. I remember being shocked in seminary when I heard that some of my fellow students had never attended a funeral. Imagine learning how to preside at a funeral when you'd never been to one before! And honestly, my kids haven't been to many funerals, and they assume funerals are awful to attend – someone has died, after all. But I've found that funerals, memorial services, and celebrations of life can be some of the most powerful, uplifting experiences. Those events give the opportunity for sharing memories and story-telling, which can be incredibly healing and inspiring for family, friends, and acquaintances. It's the perfect time for people to support one another, to celebrate, to cry together, and to laugh together more than you'd imagine. The warmth and hope you find at most funerals is amazing and profoundly faith-affirming.

Most of us don't want to be reminded of our mortality, but as Christians, we know that what awaits us after this life is even better than this one. So funerals are a time to help us remember and say goodbye, but even more importantly, they're a time to celebrate the person and to rejoice in the new life they've finally received. The promise and joy of resurrection and eternal life through Jesus' death and resurrection are most powerful to us as we say farewell to a loved one, knowing that they're now experiencing God's promises fulfilled.

If you've attended a lot of funerals, you know that often people give "memorials" for the deceased. If this is a new practice to you – families will often suggest a church, an organization, or a cause that was meaningful to the person who has died. And people will give money to that cause, to celebrate the memory of that person, to keep their memory alive. At Grace, we sometimes receive memorial donations for specific ministries – music, Sunday School, building improvement. And sometimes we're given the freedom to choose how to use memorial donations. Last month, we used Memorial funds to purchase a new bell that signals the beginning and end of worship. We also have an Endowment Fund, which invests other memorial funds over many years. These are just a few ways to remember and celebrate people who meant a lot to us. These are some of the many blessings we have as Christian community, walking together through the joys and sorrows of life, supporting one another, and celebrating the gift of new life when someone's earthly journey is over. May God continue to bless us as we strive to live faithfully in this life, reassured by the promise of the next.

In Christ,  
+ *Pastor Jennifer*





## Health Update from Pastor Jennifer

In more personal news, I so appreciate your continued prayers for my husband Erik. After more cancer progression late last year, he'll be starting a clinical trial in Detroit this month. The new med is very promising, so we're hopeful that it'll be effective, with fewer side effects than his last medication. So I welcome your prayers for Erik in this new trial as he frequently travels to and from Detroit.



## New Member Gathering

Are you interested in joining Grace, or do you know somebody who is? Please contact Pastor Jennifer to sign-up for a Gathering later this month. Watch the bulletin for date and time.



## Confirmation Corner

We'll conclude our study of the Lord's Prayer and start our study of the Apostles' Creed this month. Our February Mentor Night is February 5 at 6:30 p.m.

### Funerals/Member Deaths

Mark Evenson - died December 25, 2024

Lois Everson - funeral January 18, 2025

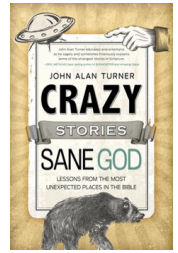
## Want to worship from home? Here's how!

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>

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## Monday Night Bible Study

This month at our Monday night Bible study, we'll explore some of the more odd, lesser-known stories in the Bible, from the book, "Crazy Stories, Sane God", by John Alan Turner. On February 24, we'll start a new study on the life and ministry of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who was part of the resistance in WWII. This study will continue through Lent as well.



- Feb. 3 – Crazy Stories, Sane God
- Feb. 10 – Crazy Stories, Sane God
- Feb. 17 – Crazy Stories, Sane God
- Feb. 24 – Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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## Sunday School Dates to Remember

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

April 13th: RISEN Easter Event

May 25th: Kids Takeover Worship

## 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.



## Enjoy the Snow?

We've been lucky so far, but it's coming! We're looking for volunteers to shovel church walks after a snowstorm. If you can help, please sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

## 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](mailto:gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com)

# FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS



**Feb 2** - Ushers: Connie Kreuser & Pat Hall                      Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen  
Reader: Tim Neuenschwander  
Communion Servers: Judy Heidebrecht & Sharon Erb  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Billy Becker & Easton Bernhardt  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Sperle & Klingforth

**Feb 9** - Ushers: Donna Simdon & Jeanine Thurow      Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts  
Reader: Rory Sullivan  
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tami Collin  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Billy Becker & Easton Bernhardt  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Whitman & Bielefeldt

**Feb 16** - Ushers: Amy Simdon & Jennifer Budewitz      Assisting Minister: Rich Fronek  
Reader: Mary Bielefeldt  
Communion Servers: Marcia Klemp & Shauna Thayer  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Aiden Williams & August Ciha  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Spindler & Klemp (Marcia)

**Feb 23** - Ushers: Tim & Evy Jeffers                              Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte  
Reader: Mandi Buonincontro  
Communion Servers: Servers - Mandi Buonincontro & Kenny Zickert  
Communion Set Up: Geis Family  
Acolytes: Ashton & Brady Thayer  
Coffee Hour: Zickert & Leser

**Altar Guild** - Diane Russo, Diane Fronek and Barb Gregory



# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
26 ANNUAL MEETING 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	27 9:30 am Quilters	28	29	30	31	1
<b>2</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 am <b>Sanctuary Choir</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7pm <b>Study</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 am <b>Ruth Circle</b>  11am <b>Outreach Committee</b>  6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15am <b>Sanctuary Choir</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7pm <b>Study</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9 am <b>Lydia Circle</b>  6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>	<b>13</b> 2 pm Staff Mtg	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>Newsletter content due</b>
<b>16</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 am <b>Sanctuary Choir</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7pm <b>Study</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 am <b>Sanctuary Choir</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7pm <b>Study</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	Mar 1

# GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



## Sunday School is Back!

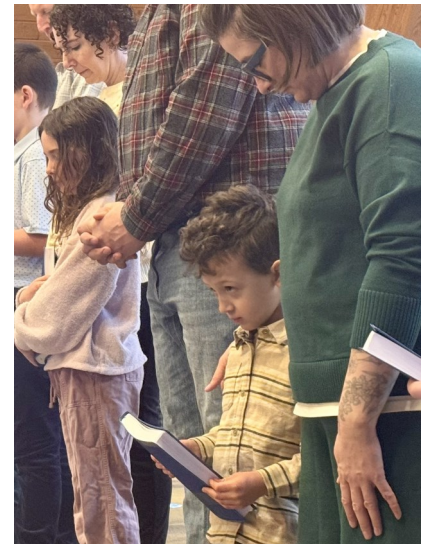
We've launched the semester with our exciting new series, "Miraculous", exploring the incredible miracles of Jesus.



Sunday School runs every Sunday through May 18th from 10:15-11:00 AM. New students are welcome to join at any time! For more information, contact Breah Klemp at [christianedu.glc@gmail.com](mailto:christianedu.glc@gmail.com).

## Bible Blessing Celebration

During worship in January, we blessed Bibles and presented them to our 3rd and 4th grade students as a milestone in their faith journey. This year, we were delighted to honor Max, Jack, Maddie, TJ, Eliza, Everett, and Ansel. Pastor Jennifer also met with the students and their families to guide them on a special tour through the Bible, fostering a deeper understanding of God's Word.



## Stewardship: Thank You

We want to thank the many members of Grace who have been good and active stewards of creation over the past year and encourage all of you to continue to “Tend God’s Garden.”



Thanks for the great response on time and talent forms. The increased amount of information will be helpful for committee chairs and others who organize projects and events.

Thank you to members of Grace and others from the community who helped support several big congregational projects in 2024. The pollinator garden was planted, watered, and quickly became active with bees and butterflies once established. New power-assisted front doors make the building more accessible and welcoming. For the third year now, the rummage sale has helped repurpose many quality items and has raised more money each year.

We’ll continue to care for the earth and its many creatures. If you might be interested in learning more about our Stewardship committee, feel free to contact any of our members: Tami Collin, Mary Bielefeldt, Janet Koepp, or Connie Kreuser. Just like the bees in our garden, we can always use more help in “pollinating” our dreams here at Grace Lutheran.

### **Please Keep Our Less Fortunate Neighbors in Mind This Winter!**

This month, the Cambridge Food Pantry wish list for donations includes hearty soup, corned beef hash, SpaghettiOs, crackers, ketchup, mayo, coffee, cookies, cake/brownie mix, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

For more information, visit the Cambridge Food Pantry website at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/foodpantry/food-pantry/>  
Thank you for your continued support of your Cambridge neighbors.



There is a donation drop box inside Grace’s front entrance and outside of the food pantry for donated items. For large donations or monetary donations, please contact the food pantry at 608.423.8142 or [foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us](mailto:foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us)

**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 7:05 p.m.

**Attendance. Present:** Sandi Aston Hall, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Charlene Luchterhand, April Mickelson, Peggy Punsel, Kristin Rue, Amy Simdon, Shawn Whitman, Kelly Witte.

**Absent:** John Jensen, Bob Koepp, Connie Kreuser, Richard Scott

**Devotions.** Sandi shared devotions.

**Approval of November Minutes.** Sandi moved to approve the December minutes as written, Amy seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by those who attended the December meeting.

**Approval of Agenda.** We added the topic of new carpet to New Business. Char moved to approve the amended agenda. Peggy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Correspondence.** We received a letter of thanks from Madison Area Jail Ministry for the Christmas cards that congregation members wrote.

**Treasurer's Report.** (Amy) We had a net gain of \$35,493.55 in December, giving us a total gain of \$21,939.65 for the year. \$10,992 of that gain was from unrealized gain on the endowment fund. God is so good! Our General Giving for 2024 was \$12,327 higher than 2023 and \$14,990 over the 2024 budget. The 2024 Special Giving was \$2,117 more than last year and \$17,416 more than budget. Our year-to-date expenses were \$72,806 more than last year and \$30,5689 over budget due to the one-time expenses of the sabbatical, Youth Gathering and the door project. The checking balance was \$22,360 more than at the end of November with the general fund balance approximately \$19,101 more. Sandi moved to approve this treasurer's report and send it to audit. April seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Pastor's Report.** Pastor thanked committee chairs who completed their annual reports. She will remind chairs earlier next year about this task, as these reports need to be included in the congregational annual report, which is distributed to members a week prior to the annual meeting. Lois Everson's funeral will be held this coming Saturday. A number of new students have joined Sunday School this year. Their parents will be invited to learn more about our church while the students are in class. Our synod's annual LEAD conference this year will be held on Saturday, February 22 at New Heights Lutheran Church facility, The Grove, in Mazomanie. The event is for rostered and lay leaders of the church to gather for worship, fellowship, and learning. [Sandi and Shawn expressed interest in attending.] An update regarding Erik Jelinek's health: a new phase of a clinical trial, which he had hoped to participate in last year, has opened up, and he appears eligible. The medication is promising with few side effects. This will require frequent trips to Detroit. Various family members and friends will accompany him to Detroit, with Pr. Jennifer doing so occasionally.



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

- **Education.** (Kristin) The children's Christmas program was wonderful. We heard lots of great comments. Sunday School started back up this past Sunday after our holiday break.
- **Property.** (Peggy for John & Richard) Property Committee has explored reasons for the chilly temperatures in the sanctuary on some Sundays. The bottom line is that we need a new thermostat. They are in the process of obtaining estimates for a smart thermostat, which would allow Pr. Jennifer to turn on the heat from her phone at home.
- **Outreach & Social Justice.** (April) We are currently collecting snack items to include in Blue Jay backpacks, which will be distributed the end of this month.

#### **Old Business.**

- **Communion Rail Cushions.** Two sources were explored. 1) Connie contacted St. Olaf Church to learn about their cushions. They suggested she contact carpet stores, and she has calls in to three local stores. 2) Richard contacted Pete Zehren of Heirloom Furniture Repair in Jefferson at Peggy's recommendation. Char, John, and Richard met with Pete in the church sanctuary. He appears knowledgeable and personable. A rough estimate would be around \$321.50 - \$452.50 per completed cushion, depending on firmness of foam and cost of fabric chosen. We would have 10 cushions. During our council meeting, we tested a number of foam samples for firmness and agreed on the \$108 option. We will continue to pursue working with Pete. The next step is to select a number of fabric samples to see in person. Char is heading up this process.
- **Update on Personal Safety Task Force.** A couple people have agreed to be on this task force. Additional members are being identified. An initial meeting will be held soon.

#### **New Business.**

- **Agenda for the Congregational Annual Meeting.** Pastor shared a typical agenda. We discussed items to include. Sandi moved to approve the agenda as presented by Pastor and discussed. Shawn seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- **New Carpet for the Basement.** Now that the basement has been painted and the leak issue resolved, new carpet is needed. Kristin will reach out to John and Richard about this.

**Adjournment.** Shawn moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandi seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting.** Our next meeting will be in February at a date and time to be determined.

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand, Council Secretary

# From the Treasurer

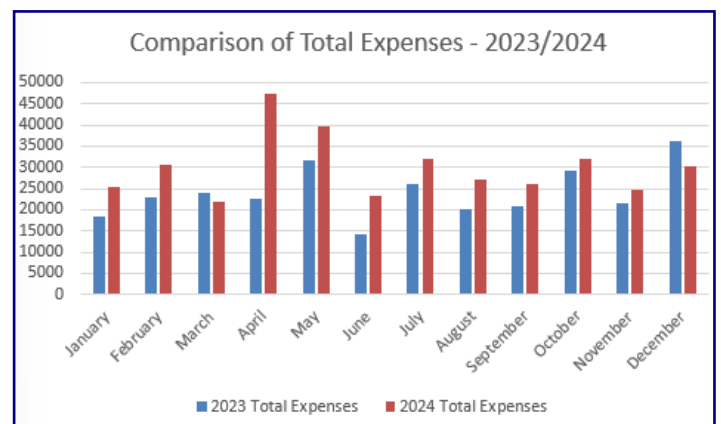
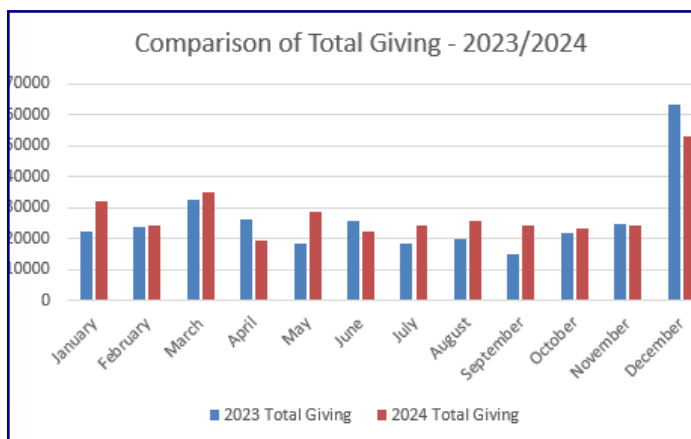
## December 2024 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date December 2024 Actual	Year-to-date 2024 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	290,990	276,000	14,990
Special Giving	37,416	20,000	17,416
Sabbatical Giving	37,983	30,950	7,033
Misc Income	5,557	3,300	2,257
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>371,945</b>	<b>330,250</b>	<b>41,695</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administrative	114,514	107,367	7,147
Mission	61,142	43,000	18,142
Pastoral	176,216	169,462	6,754
Program	8,946	10,420	(1,474)
Other	(10,811)	-	(10,811)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>350,006</b>	<b>330,249</b>	<b>19,757</b>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>21,939</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,938</b>

At the end of the year our financial outlook improved substantially. 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**





# Staff and Council

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## STAFF

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

**Admin Assistant** Catherine Elliott (608) 423-3135 [gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com)

**Christian Ed Coordinator** Breah Klemp [christianedu.glc@gmail.com](mailto:christianedu.glc@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Coordinator** Cindy Hartman [cindyh1029@msn.com](mailto:cindyh1029@msn.com)

**Financial Secretary** Diane Russo Cell: (847) 826-0131 [gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com)

**Organist** Kenneth Hoversten [kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com)

**Handbell Choir Director** Ann Engelstad [gaengelstad@charter.net](mailto:gaengelstad@charter.net)

## COUNCIL

**President** Kelly Witte

**Vice President** Steve Bielefeldt

**Secretary** Mary Behling

**Treasurer** Amy Simdon

**Outreach** April Mickelson

**Education** Bill Becker

**Stewardship** Connie Kreuser

**Hospitality** Peggy Punsel

**Evangelism** Marcia Klemp

**Worship** Ann Engelstad

**Property** Bill Reay



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