



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## JANUARY 2025 Newsletter

### Pastor's Ponderings



Happy New Year! As we enter 2025, we pray that God may bless us with faith, health, and joy. In worship this winter and spring, our readings will come from Luke's Gospel. So I thought it might be helpful to share some things that make Luke's Gospel unique.

"Luke" wasn't a first-hand witness of Jesus' ministry. He was a physician who was connected to Jesus' apostles, particularly Paul. He knew others had written about Jesus' life, but his goal was to share "an orderly account" of Jesus' life, putting the events of Jesus' life in order. Where other Gospel-writers were obviously from Jewish backgrounds, it's believed that Luke was a Gentile. He writes not only to Jewish Christians, but to Gentile Christians, who aren't aware of Jewish traditions and promise of the Messiah.

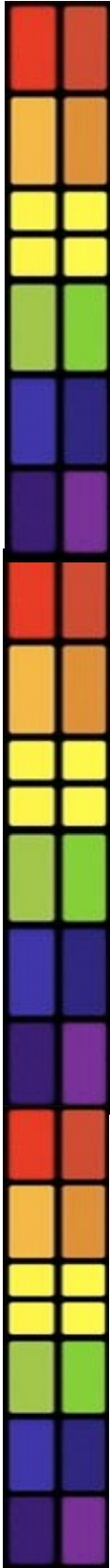
It's only in Luke where we hear the Christmas story, with Mary and Joseph's travels to Bethlehem, where there was no room in the inn, so baby Jesus was born and laid in a manger. Luke's Gospel contains many parables, including the most famous Parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Clearly, Luke saw the importance of people learning through the power of story. It seems that Luke also saw the importance of Jesus' ministry surrounding food and feasts. He included several parables about banquets, and he wrote about no less than 19 meals Jesus shared with people, often people others objected to.

Those people others objected to are also a focus of Luke's Gospel. Luke focuses deeply on Jesus' ministry to the excluded, the outcast, and the marginalized. Jesus is often seen reaching out to society's rejects, like tax collectors, Gentiles, the poor, and women. And Jesus talks more frequently about salvation in Luke's Gospel. Several times, Jesus tells people that their faith has saved them.

In Luke, there's an emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit – in Jesus' conception, at Jesus' baptism, in Jesus' ministry, as well as Jesus offering the Holy Spirit to those who asked for it. So it makes sense that it's Luke who wrote a sequel to his Gospel – the Acts of the Apostles, which speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and follows the Apostles as they share the Gospel across the known world, led by the Holy Spirit.

In this New Year, we invite you to join us in worship as we journey through Luke's Gospel, experiencing the welcome and celebrations, the stories of salvation, and the wonders of the Holy Spirit together.

In Christ,  
+ *Pastor Jennifer*





### **Diner's Delight Sign-up**

It's time for a new year of Diner's Delight! Diner's Delight is an opportunity to get to know other Grace folks over casual dinners. 4 times a year, we group folks together to share a meal and enjoy each other's company. We often hear how much people enjoy the opportunity to get to know people outside of church. If you'd like to sign up to participate in Diner's Delight during 2025, please sign up at church or contact Pastor Jennifer to add you to the list.

### **Bible Blessing: January 12th**



You're invited to join us for worship on Sunday, January 12th, as we celebrate the blessing and presentation of bibles to our 3rd & 4th graders. Be there to surround them with prayer and encouragement as they take the next step in growing their faith and knowing God's Word.



### **Confirmation Corner**

This month, we begin our study of the Lord's Prayer. Mentorship night is January 8 at 6:30 pm.

### **Grace Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting for Grace Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2025 at 10:15 am in the Sanctuary. All adult Grace members are invited to participate in this important meeting.

### **MAJM Christmas Card Outreach**

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who wrote over 40 cards for our incarcerated siblings in Christ through the Madison Area Jail Ministry project. In response, we received this message from the coordinator, Karen: *"The messages written by members of Grace Lutheran will bring comfort, peace, and encouragement to those in jail this Christmas season. May your holidays be joyous ones."*



### **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

Each year in January, we commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, remembering this man who worked for justice and racial equity in our country. This month in our Monday night study, we'll focus on the dreams and themes of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a video discussion series called, "Share The Dream." Join us for any or all of these Monday night sessions at 7:00 p.m. as we learn and share dreams for a more just world together.

Jan. 6 – Love

Jan. 13 – Conscience

Jan. 20 – Justice

Jan. 27 – Freedom

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## We Appreciate You!



A big thanks to our musicians and choirs for all of their musical music during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Thanks to Kenneth Hoversten, Ann Engelstad, and Karen Johnson for their leadership. Thanks to Jim Jermain for once again setting up our beautiful Christmas trees. Thank you to Jeanine Thurow for making our beautiful new white Christmas paraments.

## Sunday School Dates to Remember

January 5th: No Sunday School

January 12th: Sunday School Resumes for Spring Semester

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

April 13th: RISEN Easter Event

May 25th: Kids Takeover Worship

## Member Death

**Lois Everson - December 19, 2024**

## Star Words

In this season when we celebrate the star that guided the magi to Jesus, we continue the tradition of Star Words here at Grace. On Jan. 5, you'll have the opportunity to receive a star with a word to help guide and focus you throughout this new year. If you'd like to receive a star virtually, you may go to this website: [www.wordsatgrace.com](http://www.wordsatgrace.com)



## 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.

# JANUARY VOLUNTEERS



- Jan 5** - Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn                      Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen  
Reader: Mary Bielefeldt  
Communion Servers: Jean Scott & Pat Hall  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Annabel Fleck & Haven Lovick-Gill  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Jill Jensen & Watson
- Jan 12** - Ushers: Bill Becker Family                              Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke  
Reader: Jim Leser  
Communion Servers: Kenny Zickert and Diane Russo  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Paxton & Emmett Koehler  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Lehr & Hermanson
- Jan 19** - Ushers: Jenine Thurow & Donna Simdon              Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte  
Reader: April Mickelson  
Communion Servers: April Mickelson & Rachel Drotzer  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Will Gottschalk & Griffin Sullivan  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Sivesind & Hall
- Jan 26** - Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepp                              Assisting Minister: Diane Fronck  
Reader: Sandi Aston Hall  
Communion Servers: Servers - Angie Bauer Williams & Judy Heidebrecht  
Communion Set Up: Geis Family  
Acolytes: August Ciha & Aiden Williams  
Coffee Hour: YOUTH

**Altar Guild** - Amy Simdon, Judy Heidebrecht & Ann Adsit



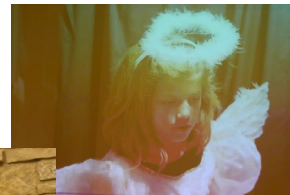
# JANUARY CALENDAR

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

# GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



We hope you enjoyed this year's Christmas Program, "Mary Remembers." Special thanks to the Sunday School Teachers (Kristin, Kristine, Emily, Traci, Robin, and Bridgette) for all their hard work preparing for the program! Also to Pastor Jennifer, Brenda Lovick, Kenneth Hoversten, and Karen Johnson for their musical talents and leadership. Last, but certainly not least, a huge thank you to Mary Bielefeldt for her leading role in the program.



Thank you to our  
photographer,  
Randy  
Luchterhand!



## Help Fill Our Blue Jay Backpacks!

Our local Food Pantry has reached out to area churches to help provide snacks for K-5 children in the Cambridge School District. We will be attempting to fill 30 “backpacks” with 16+ snacks in the month of January. This program aims to ensure that students who may be experiencing food insecurity have access to meals during weekends and holidays when school is closed. Ideally each backpack should include 8 meal items, 8 breakfast items, and 8 snack items. Food items that are GREAT for the Blue Jay Backpack Program include:

- Individual Fruit Cups
- Ramen Noodles
- Microwavable soups
- Microwavable pasta meals i.e. Ravioli/spaghettios
- Individual Grits or Oatmeal Packets
- Granola Bars
- Small Boxes of Cereal (individual servings)
- Mac-n-Cheese (microwavable, individual servings)
- Individually wrapped snacks (peanut butter crackers, cheez-its, pudding cups, cookies, etc.)

Our Sundays for collecting food items will include January 5, 12, and the 19 so we can assemble the backpacks for pick up by January 22.

If you cannot get out and shop, we will do the shopping for you. Just write a check, make a Venmo or Vanco donation and we will do the rest. Please be sure to write Blue Jay Backpack in the memo line so it goes to the right place! We need all donations in by January 19.

If you have any questions, please contact April Mickelson, Outreach & Social Justice Committee, at 608-225-8955. Your help gathering these snacks is greatly appreciated!

Interested in doing more? Contact the food pantry for volunteer opportunities or perhaps donating wish list items.

There is a donation drop box 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)

### Cambridge Food Pantry Wish List



HEARTY SOUP  
CORNED BEEF HASH  
SPAGHETTIOS, RAVIOLI, OTHER CANNED  
MEALS AND PASTAS  
CRACKERS (SALTINES, RITZ, ETC.)  
KETCHUP  
MAYONNAISE  
COFFEE  
COOKIES  
CAKE/BROWNIE MIX  
DISH SOAP  
LAUNDRY SOAP



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**December 10, 2024**

**(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)**

**Call to Order.** President Kelly Witte called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Attendance. Present:** Sandi Aston Hall, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, John Jensen, Bob Koepp, Connie Kreuser, Charlene Luchterhand, April Mickelson, Peggy Punsel, Richard Scott, Amy Simdon, Shawn Whitman, Kelly Witte. **Absent:** Kristin Rue.

**Devotions.** John and Richard shared devotions.

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

**Approval of Agenda.** We added the topic of our annual congregational meeting to New Business. Peggy moved to approve the amended agenda. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Correspondence.** We received a letter of thanks from Lutheran World Relief for funds donated by our members.

**Treasurer's Report.** (Amy) We had a net loss of \$392.60 in November and a net loss of \$13,584.75 for the year. Our year-to-date (YTD) General Giving at the end of November was \$15,560 higher than 2023 and \$3,644 under the YTD budget. YTD Special Giving was \$9,177 more than last year and \$7,784 more than budget. Our YTD expenses were \$78,976 more than last year. If we didn't include our one-time expenses of the sabbatical, Youth Gathering and the door project, our expenses would be \$9,350 more than last year. We are \$27,912 over our budget due to those same one-time expenses. The checking balance was \$665 less than at the end of October with the general fund balance approximately \$2,157 more. John moved to approve this treasurer's report and send it to audit. Peggy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Pastor's Report.** The children's Christmas program will be held this coming Sunday during the worship service. Also the Ruth Circle and the youth will be holding a bake sale including Scandinavian treats that day. Most of the proceeds will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to aid those affected by hurricanes. The church will be open Wednesday, December 18, from 3:00 – 8:00 PM for anyone who would like to stop in for prayer, meditation, or to talk. Christmas season services include: Christmas Eve worship at both 3 PM and 5 PM, Tuesday, December 24; Christmas Day worship at 10 AM on Wednesday, December 25; and lessons and carols at 9 AM on Sunday, December 29. Pastor will be on vacation from December 27 through January 5. Brenda Lovick will preside over the worship service on January 5. Pastor Jennifer will give Catherine the name of an area pastor who will be on-call in the event of an emergency during her absence.



Pastor commended our congregation for being a welcoming one to all and solicited the council's thoughts on this. We agreed that if a visitor were to ask for money, members need not feel obligated to help personally. A visitor can be directed to the Cambridge Area Resource Team (CART). If someone wants to sell something for personal gain, they will be told that this is not allowed at our church.

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

- **Education.** (Kristin) The children's Christmas program will be held this coming Sunday during the worship service.
- **Hospitality.** (Peggy) The committee met with new members. They discussed and agreed to buy items in bulk to save money because of increases in coffee hour expenditures.
- **Outreach & Social Justice.** (April) On Sundays, the committee is selling Equal Exchange Fairly Traded products at cost and encourages members to purchase ELCA Good Gifts items to support churchwide ministries across the globe. The next project will be to collect snack items to include in Blue Jay backpacks in January.

**Sabbatical Team Report.** (Bob) Bob received feedback from five people for the congregational portion of the report to Lilly Endowment Inc, the foundation that supported Pastor's sabbatical. He welcomes feedback from others yet. The goal is to complete the report by the end of 2024.

- **Old Business.**
  - 2025 Budget.** Amy shared the revised budget, focusing especially on Pastor's compensation package. John moved that we accept the proposed budget. Sandi seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
  - **Church Bell.** Karen Johnson explored the availability of refurbished bells. We should be able to purchase one for roughly \$700. Char moved that we authorize Karen to spend up to \$1000 for a bell and postage to deliver it and to use memorial funds for this purpose. Shawn seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
  - **Communion Rail Cushions.** Pastor Jennifer learned from Michael Rehak that the company that made the cushions for our pews is no longer in business. A task force of Char, Connie, John, and Peggy will explore options for sources for these cushions.

**New Business.**

- **Congregational Annual Meeting.** We set the date for Sunday, January 26. Each committee will need to submit a report to Catherine by the end of 2024. Hospitality will take care of gifts for staff.

**Adjournment.** April moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand, Council Secretary

# From the Treasurer

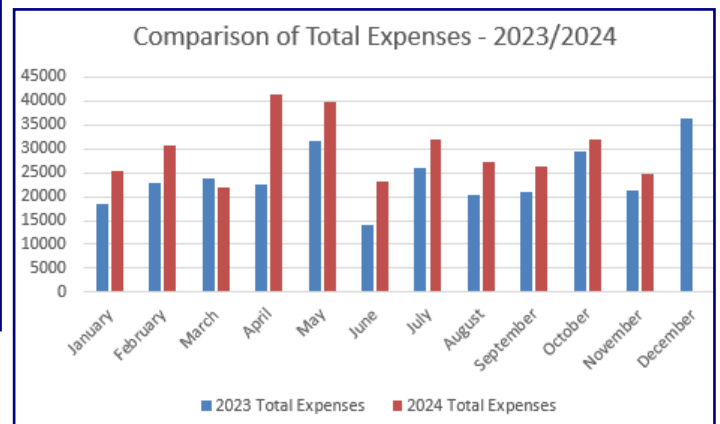
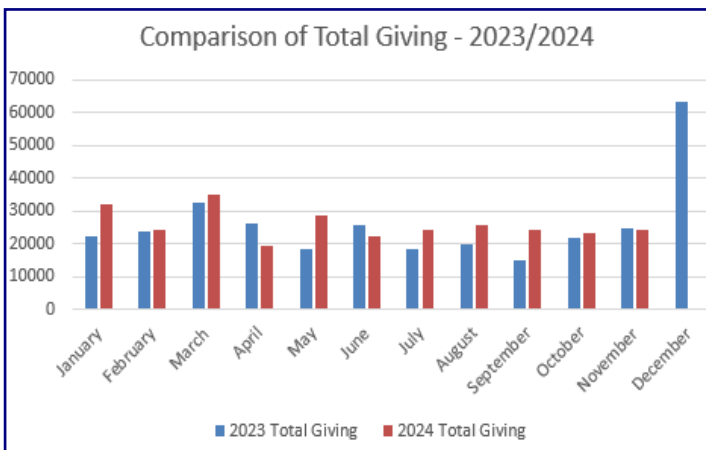
## November 2024 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date November 2024 Actual	Year-to-date 2024 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	249,356	253,000	(3,644)
Special Giving	26,118	18,333	7,784
Sabbatical Giving	37,983	30,951	7,032
Misc Income	3,600	3,025	575
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>317,056</b>	<b>305,309</b>	<b>11,746</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administrative	107,144	98,420	8,724
Mission	50,489	39,417	11,073
Pastoral	165,767	155,340	10,427
Program	7,240	9,552	(2,311)
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>330,641</b>	<b>302,728</b>	<b>27,912</b>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(13,585)</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>(16,166)</b>

In the last month our financial outlook has improved substantially. Thank you to everyone for your generosity, and for being good stewards of the financial gifts God has given you. 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 Home: 423-2329 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** Bob Koepf

**Secretary** Mary Behling

**Treasurer** Amy Simdon

**Outreach** April Mickelson

**Education** Bill Becker

**Stewardship** Connie Kreuser

**Hospitality** Peggy Punsel

**Evangelism** Shawn Whitman

**Worship** Ann Engelstad

**Property** Bill Reay



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 987

