



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

July 2026 Newsletter

Pastor's Ponderings



For the last month in worship, we've been exploring what the Bible says about creation, from Genesis 1 to Job to a couple Psalms. It's become very clear to me that creation was God's first act of love for us. Even before humans existed, God was creating and preparing this planet for all sorts of life, plants, trees, birds, fish, animals, and human life. It's been delightful to listen to passages where it's clear that God delights in creation as much as we do. In Psalm 104, we hear how God wears light like a robe and rides the winds, treating the clouds as his chariot. And if God so delights in creation, we too can celebrate this world we live in.

My mom fosters monarchs at home – from egg to caterpillar to butterfly. It's been shown that fostered monarchs have an 80% chance of making it to adulthood, compared to about 10% in the wild. So our Stewardship Team has decided to try monarch-fostering this summer at Grace. Our hope is that we can help several monarchs get to butterfly-stage and release them into our pollinator garden, where they can continue the monarch life-cycle. Feel free to check out our monarch cage in the fellowship hall, but please don't touch. In my hunt for monarch eggs in the wild, I've learned to pay attention to things I never would've noticed before – other insects, birds, native plants, and so much more. Slowing down in nature has given me a new sense of wonder. It's made me wonder – what else have I been missing?

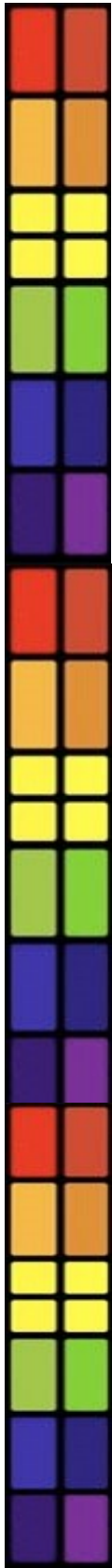
This month, my goal is to get out more and to notice more about God's creation, and to spend time wandering, wondering, and marveling, as well as caring better for the planet God gave us. I invite you to join me. So what are some things you can do to care for creation?

- Take a nature walk and slow down to notice all the little things.
- Bring a garbage bag if you go for a walk, and pick up trash you find.
- Plant native plants and pollinator-loving plants in your yard.
- Plant trees.
- Can you carpool rather than driving by yourself?
- Try to use reusable water bottles and metal straws rather than plastic.
- Keep reusable bags in your car for use when you go shopping.
- Recycle your extra plastic bags at Piggly Wiggly.
- Do you need paper statements for bills? Switch to online statements.
- Support local farmers and eat more vegetables. (It's good for you too!)
- Try composting (stay tuned about a Grace compost bin).
- Find your own way to honor and care for God's creation.

Happy wandering and wondering!

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





It's Almost Here!

Join us on July 12th following worship to enjoy food, fellowship, and games with fellow members at our annual church picnic! Hotdogs, brats, condiments, and drinks will be provided; just bring a dish to pass. In addition to delicious food, enjoy family friendly games like corn hole, kid friendly lawn darts, and even bocce ball. And we'll worship outdoors, weather permitting.



Note Adjusted Worship Time

In order to enjoy fellowship together at the Church Picnic, we'll adjust our worship time on July 12th ; instead of worship at 9am, we'll begin our worship at 10am. And a little extra sleep never hurts!

Meals on Wheels

Grace is responsible for delivery of meals June 29th—July 10. If you can help with driving, please contact Marlene Hussey at 608-513-6461.



Grace Rummage Sale: Friday, August 7 & Saturday, August 8

Drop off your donations now (clean & undamaged items please) for the August Rummage Sale. Please bring items to the designated rooms in the basement. We're also in need of volunteers to help with set up on Mon-Thurs, August 3rd-6th, starting at 9am each day.

Please contact Connie Kreuser if you can help.

ELCA South Central Synod of Wisconsin Conference



On May 15th and 16th the ELCA South Central Synod of Wisconsin held their 2026 annual conference at the Woodman's Center in Janesville, WI. Pastor Jennifer Jelinek and Diane & Rich Fronck attended representing Grace Lutheran. The theme of the conference was "Forward".

Friday evening started with an opening worship service following by the initial ballot for election of the synod bishop (a six year term). Saturday continued with the election of the bishop; current bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe was re-elected after the 4th ballot. Saturday included a vote on the resolution on "Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action (2025 – 2034)", which was passed by the conference attendees. Other activities during the Saturday session were the election of synodical officers and committee members. Presentations were made by two Hispanic churches in our synod, located in Beloit and Madison, highlighting their mission, challenges and thankfulness. Looking forward, the conference focused on membership challenges of the church today, impacts of climate change and awareness to the needs of our immigrant neighbors. The conference ended on Saturday afternoon with worship.

Want to Worship from Home? Here's How!

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



Want to help with Evangelism and reach out to individuals seeking comfort through God's word? Please see Marcia Klemp.

Monday Night Adult Education



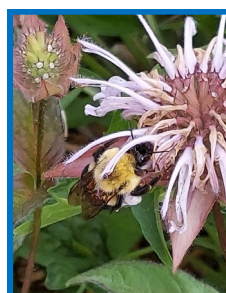
This month, we finish up our Care for Creation series. There is no class on July 6, but we'll meet on July 13 to wrap up our study.

Please feel free to join us for any or all of these discussions on Mondays at 7pm.

Pollinator Garden Update



A Bug House has been installed in hopes of attracting pollinators.



And the bees are doing their thing!



August Book Study

In August, you're invited to join in reading and discussing the book, "The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts and World" by Sharon Brous. If you're interested, just pick up a copy of the book (or ask Pastor Jennifer to order you a copy). The study will begin on Monday, Aug. 10 at 7pm.

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



JULY AT GRACE

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	29 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	30	1 9 am Ruth Circle 11 am Outreach Committee	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 Independence Day
5 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	6 9:30 am Quilters	7	8 9 am Lydia Circle	9	10	11
10 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 11 am CHURCH PICNIC	13 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	14 7 pm COUNCIL MEETING	15 Newsletter content due	16	17	18
19 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	20 9:30 am Quilters	21	22	23	24	25
26 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	27 9:30 am Quilters	28	29	30	31	AUG 1

From the Treasurer

May 2026 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date May 2026 Actual	Year-to-date 2026 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	118,196	122,917	(4,720)
Special Giving	13,735	13,333	402
Misc Income	<u>1,413</u>	<u>1,631</u>	<u>(218)</u>
Total Income	133,345	137,881	(4,537)
Expenses			
Administrative	50,188	48,090	2,097
Mission	21,114	21,667	(553)
Pastoral	63,521	63,701	(180)
Program	2,278	4,425	(2,147)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	<u>137,101</u>	<u>137,883</u>	<u>(782)</u>
Total Net Income	(3,756)		(3,754)

You'll note we are a bit behind on our giving. A gentle reminder to everyone of the importance of staying financially faithful, even in the summer months. Your generosity fuels everything we do—from ministry to outreach—and every gift, big or small, makes a difference.

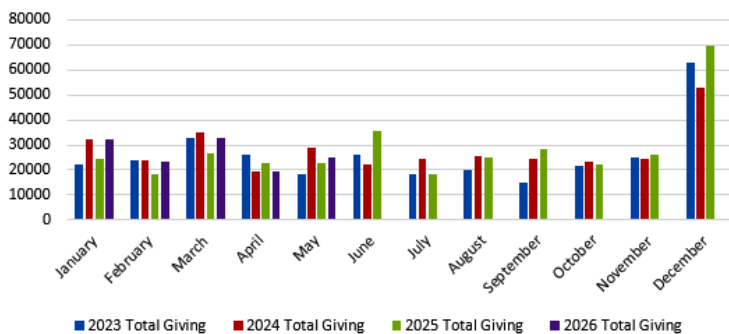
Let's continue trusting God together and giving with grateful hearts.

Thank you for being such a generous community!

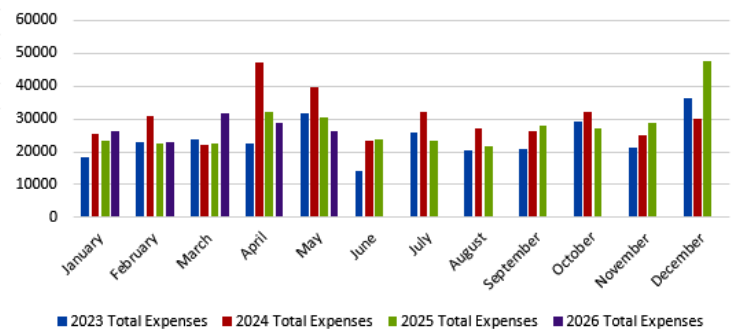


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Comparison of Total Giving - 2023-2026



Comparison of Total Expenses - 2023-2026





Staff and Council



STAFF

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

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We broadcast
on Channel
987

