

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love AUGUST 2022

Pastor's Ponderings



Have you ever gone somewhere where you didn't feel welcomed? Whether it was a party where you were ignored, a meeting that had no chair for you, or a church where you weren't allowed to take communion, not feeling welcomed, or feeling unwelcomed, hurts.

When I was little, I was desperate to play with some kids in the neighborhood who had built a super-cool fort. But when I went over to play, I saw a sign over the door, "No Girls Allowed!" When the boys confirmed that I was not welcome, I was devastated, thinking about all the fun I was missing inside. I also remember the time when my husband and I had reservations at a fancy restaurant in Las Vegas on a 104° day. Erik was wearing nice shorts, but the restaurant wouldn't let us in until Erik changed into their borrowed pants and socks (with his sandals, no less). While the food was good, I wasn't comfortable there because we weren't welcome unless we dressed to their standards (which they hadn't told us about when we called for the reservation).

For all of Christian history, the Church has made various people feel unwelcomed and excluded. Many churches have discriminated against and refused to welcome various races and ethnic groups. In some denominations, women were prevented from leading, voting, even speaking in church. And even today, folks in the LGBTQ community are often rejected, ostracized, and excluded from participation in churches. Many folks have written off Christianity because of the reputation of churches being judgmental, uncompassionate, and unwelcoming – not following the example of Jesus.

When I interviewed at Grace 6 years ago, I was told that Grace is a welcoming congregation, and indeed, I have experienced and witnessed that as being true. I've heard from many of our guests that they felt at home here almost immediately, and that makes me proud and profoundly grateful for our faith community. Because we follow Jesus, who was radically inclusive and welcoming of all kinds of people, and as Christians, we're called to do the same. Here at Grace, we're beginning to look at ways that we can be even more welcoming and inclusive, especially of people who have not felt welcomed in churches before. In the coming months, you may hear more about the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program, where we'll enter a conversation about how to be more welcoming to those who have previously felt excluded or marginalized by churches. Because everybody deserves to know the grace and love of God and to feel welcomed into God's family just as they are. If you're interested in being a part of our RIC Taskforce, please talk with Pastor Jennifer or Brenda Lovick.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer

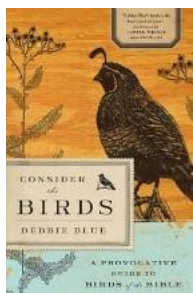
Grace will be participating in the rummage sale along with all of Cambridge during Maxwell Street Days.

On Sunday, August 14, we're delighted to welcome Rev. Walter Baires to Grace. Walter is an Assistant to the Bishop in our Synod and joined us for our mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2019. Whether or not you've ever met Walter, we invite you to join us in worship to learn more about how our synod is reaching out to others.



Rev. Walter Baires serves as the Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop. He was called to this position in April, 2019 and started in the office on May 1, 2019. Rev. Baires was ordained in the Lutheran Church of El Salvador in 1994. He graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in

1993. He served as associate pastor at Resurrection Lutheran in San Salvador, director of the Sister Parish Program, and vice-president of the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod. Beginning in 2001, he began serving as co-pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church, a multicultural congregation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During his time at Ascension he also has served as vice-president of the Latino Ethnic Association of the ELCA, coordinator of the Synodical Latino Strategy and member of the ELCA Latino Strategy monitoring team. Rev. Baires is married to Elizabeth, an ELCA pastor currently serving as bridge pastor at Saint Luke Lutheran in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Their children are Atzin (31), Itzel (29), and Walter Jr. (27).



This month we continue our study of the birds of the Bible, and the faith lessons they can teach us, inspired by Debbie Blue's Book, "Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible."

Hey Photographers - If you've got pictures of the bird of the week, we'd love to include your pictures in our worship slideshow. Please feel free to send them to us – gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

August 7 – The Hen “Freedom & Domestication”

August 14 – Pastor Walter Baires from SCW Synod

August 21 – The Cock “Cockiness & Betrayal”

August 28 – The Pelican “Sacrifice & Gift”

Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Charter cable channel 987 Sundays at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel, which has dozens of past sermons with Bible readings.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLqxSU8aw>

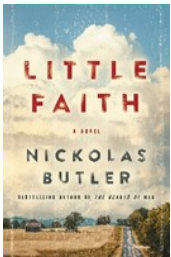
Encanto Study

Our weekly Encanto study will come to a conclusion this month. Each Sunday after worship we'll explore a different "Encanto" character and discover how that person's gift connects to our lives of faith. This unusual and fun study will be interesting for people of all ages – a true family event with movie clips and music. Come each week or whenever you're able. We'll meet in the Sanctuary at 10:15. Haven't seen "Encanto" yet? Talk to Pastor Jennifer to borrow a copy.



August 7 – Julieta & Pepa
August 14 – Camilo
August 21 – Bruno
August 28 – Antonio

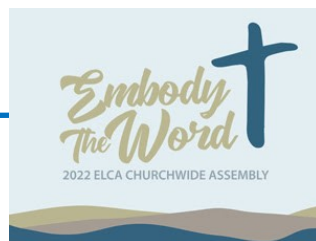
Summer Book Study



On Aug. 8th we conclude our Monday evening study, discussing the book, "Little Faith," by Wisconsin author Nickolas Butler. This novel follows Lyle and Peg Hovde, as they cope with the reappearance of their adult daughter and her son, who have been involved in an extremist church that causes them great concern. This book about friendship, faith, and community. Join us at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!
Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81603218424?pwd=OqaVinWpa5h_Hay6pJuUmiKLpg5ONR.1

2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly



The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, convenes Aug. 8-12 in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme is "Embody the Word," based on Luke 24:45. Voting members will participate in plenaries, discussions and worship while acting on key legislative business and hearing reports and updates on the work of the church. *Living Lutheran* provides an [overview](#) of the agenda and upcoming elections. In advance of the Churchwide Assembly, ELCA members are encouraged to participate in a series of [online Bible studies](#) on Sundays in July. To follow along with the assembly from home, livestream the proceedings at [ELCA.org/cwa](https://www.elca.org/cwa).

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS



Aug 7 - Ushers: Keith and Barb Johnston

Assisting Minister: Jeff Gafner

Reader: Shawn Whitman

Communion Servers: Shawn Whitman & Amy Simdon

Communion Set up: Ruth Circle

Acolytes: Rylan Tobias & Miranda Borchardt

Coffee Hour Hosts: Johnstons & Lesers

Aug 14 - Ushers: Tim & Evy Jeffers

Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts

Reader: Tim Jeffers

Communion Servers: April Mickelson & Rachel Drotzer

Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle

Acolytes: Marissa Kilburg & Gwen Olson

Coffee Hour Hosts: Northey & Key

Aug 21 - Ushers: Richard & Jean Scott

Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte

Reader: Jean Scott

Communion Servers: Maddie & Mallori Buonincontro

Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle

Acolytes: Alyssa & Ellie Gottschalk

Coffee Hour Hosts: Dale Klemp & Thayers

Aug 28 - Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn

Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke

Reader: Brenda Lovick

Communion Servers: Brenda Lovick & Mary Behling

Communion Set Up: Geis family

Acolytes: Sammy & Gordie Grender

Coffee Hour Hosts: Muth & Geis

Altar Guild - Andrea Coutts, Wendy Lehr, and Betty Reay



AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
31 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	1 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Book Study	2	3 9 am Ruth Circle 11 am Outreach Committee mtg	4	5	6
7 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	8 9:30 am Quilters	9 7 pm Grace Council Mtg	10 9:30 am Lydia Circle	11	12	13
14 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	15 9:30 am Quilters Newsletter articles due	16	17	18	19	20
21 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	22 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Community Ukulele	23	24	25	26	27
28 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	29 9:30 am Quilters	30	31	SEPT 1	2	3



The Church Office is open from 9:00 am – noon, Monday through Friday. There are additional hours, but those vary. Please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment. (608) 423-3135 or gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com



Growing Faith-Filled Kids

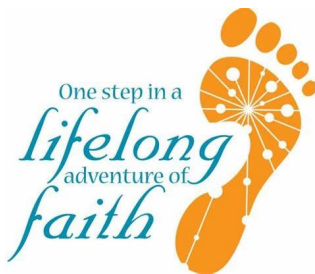
Christian Ed Coordinator Position

At Grace, we are blessed with wonderful children, and it's our priority to teach them the faith and support them on their faith journeys. Grace is looking to hire an individual to serve as our Christian Education Coordinator for the 2022-2023 school year. This part-time position is about 10 hours per week and includes organizing Sunday School and other children's activities. A job description is available at church, or by request over e-mail. If you're interested, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

Pre-Confirmation

When our youth enter middle school, a lot changes in their lives. So at Grace, 6th graders have a transitional year between Sunday School and starting Confirmation. So for 6th graders, we offer a Pre-Confirmation class on Wednesday nights, at the same time as Confirmation, but designed for 6th graders. We're looking for a couple people who would be interested in teaching or co-teaching Pre-Confirmation this school year. If you're interested in working with this fun group of kids, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

Confirmation Corner



Confirmation is just around the corner! Confirmation traditionally starts in 7th grade at Grace. 7th and 8th graders have class together for 2 years. 3rd-year students work with their mentors to finish up this part of their faith journey and are confirmed (this year on Sunday, October 23).

3rd years students, parents, and mentors— There will be an Orientation at the end of August. Watch your mail for more information.

Orientation for 1st and 2nd years will be on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m.

High School Riverboat Trip

Our high school youth recently returned from a riverboat service trip where they visited Sugar Creek Bible Camp. They are looking forward to sharing their experiences with you!

Look for details to come.



Outreach and Social Justice

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our LWR (Lutheran World Relief) Personal Care Kits drive! We were able to send \$500 for immediate use and have 56 kits ready to send in the September boxcar, along with our other kits and quilts. We have been blessed with so much; it's wonderful to see the generosity of this congregation to help others who are less fortunate.

UP NEXT: SCHOOL KITS!

Are you ready for school bell to ring again? Our next project is School Kits, so be on the lookout for school supply sales! The Outreach Committee will be starting to collect school supplies beginning **Aug. 1st—Sept. 10th.**

Bags will be available to pick up at church starting July 31st.

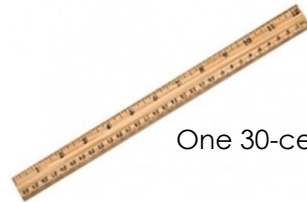
THE FOLLOWING ARE INCLUDED IN EACH SCHOOL KIT:



Four 70-sheet notebooks



One box of 16 or 24 crayons



One 30-centimeter ruler



One pencil sharpener

One 2½" eraser



One pair of blunt scissors



Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers



Five black or blue ballpoint pens

School Kits Provide Normalcy in Times of Crisis

School kits provide a chance for kids to attend school when parents might not be able to supply them what they need. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2022, Via Zoom

(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)

Call to Order and Attendance. Meeting called to order by Vice-President Kelly Witte at 7:06 p.m. Present: Mary Behling, Shawn Whitman, Tim Neuenschwander, Ann Engelstad, Kelly Witte, Jim Jermain, Bill Reay, and Pastor Jennifer Jelinek. Absent: Bill Becker, Jen Hellberg, April Mickelson, and Kris Tobias.

Devotions. Jim Jermain shared his faith story and offered a prayer to start the meeting.

Approval of May Minutes. Ann Engelstad moved to approve the Minutes, Jim Jermain seconded the motion, and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda. Jim Jermain moved to approve the Agenda as set, Mary Behling seconded the motion, and the Agenda was unanimously approved.

Correspondence. Pastor Jennifer shared a thank you note from Patricia Cook for allowing her to hold a piano recital at the church.

Treasurer's Report. Tim Neuenschwander provided his reports and summary. He noted that June revenue was down as usual in the summer. Both May and June were very similar to past years for such months with \$24, 316 revenue in June, made up mostly of general giving. Expenses were also very similar to past years for such months. Our utility costs have decreased, but still need to watch since they generally decrease in summer regardless. There was a net loss of \$4,000 in May and over \$1,000 in June, but there is still a positive YTD balance. A new computer was purchased for the financial secretary and is working well. A Finance Committee meeting was held on May 22, with the main issue being whether or not to bring up the idea of a capital campaign with the congregation for stained glass windows. It was agreed to table that for now for various reasons (current economy, just finished a capital campaign, etc.) Jim Jermain moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Ann Engelstad seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Jennifer noted that Carolyn Scholten's funeral had been held recently and Carolyn will be missed in many church activities. Pastor Jennifer, Brenda Lovick, and 8 youth will be leaving on the Youth Mission Trip on July 24 th . They will spend several days on the riverboat and several days on land doing mission work and following the curriculum previously set for the Youth Gathering. Worship will be held outside that morning with a sending ceremony for the Youth group, followed, by the Church Picnic will be held that morning with a service at 9 followed by the picnic. The movie for the June movie night was Encanto. It had to be moved inside due to the weather and was attended by about 30 people. Discussion of the characters has continued on Sundays. Finally, she would like to have a potluck dinner for Council at her house before the August meeting and then hold the meeting there.

Committee Reports. Outreach (April Mickelson) submitted a report indicating they are busy with Baby Care Kits to be delivered in September and will be starting turning a School Kit drive in August. More information will be in the newsletter. Hospitality (Jim Jermain) reported that they had distributed A&W Root Beer to all dads on Father's Day and were donating the leftovers to the church picnic on July 26 th . They have been working on the picnic and have most things set, but could still use some help with kids' games. Property (Bill Reay) reported that they finally met, with good results. They will be replacing light bulbs with LEDs as needed and will have a case available in the furnace room.

They have lined up volunteers to empty the dehumidifiers daily, to replace the Grace signage on Hwy, 18, to do weekly lawn mowing, to do weeding, and to install the new thermostat, check gutters and look at the drain problem in the kitchen. The carpet in the basement that was damaged by the floods will be removed and the floor smoothed out. The second lawn mower will be fixed and returned to the garage, the mailbox will be surveyed for repair or replacement, and a list of to-dos will be posted on the kiosk by the office for volunteers to see and do. Stewardship (Jennifer Hellberg) reported that they had an abbreviated meeting focused on the bingo license. They decided to pursue a one-time license when they have a confirmed date for the event. They discussed Vanco online and Amy Simdon will be assisting with that conversion. They debriefed on the Ministry Fair and discussed what was good and what could be improved and talked about ideas for the showcasing the committees during the year. Finally, we discussed the garage sale which will run during the Cambridge community garage sale days. No other reports were submitted.

Old Business. (a) Covid Protocols. No changes were suggested at this time. **(b)** AED Training. No new date has been scheduled yet. **(c)** Fellowship Hall Lighting Project Updates. Pastor Jennifer has not yet heard back from the electrician. She will call him again. **(d)** Energy Costs (ideas and updates). Jim Jermain has chosen a programmable thermostat that he thinks will work well, so he will pick it up and Dale Klemp has volunteered to install it. Property is working on converting lights to LEDs as much as possible. Pastor Jennifer believes there is a lighting inventory somewhere and will ask Catherine to look for it.

New Business. (a) Christian Education Coordinator Position. Teresa Neuenschwander is stepping down so we need a new coordinator. The main duty is coordinating Sunday School, but includes other events such as coordinating the Christmas program. The position is about 10 hours/week. Pastor Jennifer indicated it would be best to have this be someone in the congregation. She will be announcing it in church, on facebook, etc., and urged anyone with an interest or recommendation to let her know. There are good resources available. **(b)** Reconciling in Christ possibility. Pastor Jennifer had asked Brenda Lovick to join the meeting to discuss the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program with us. Brenda indicated that RIC is not an ELCA program, but it has been embraced as a designation within the ELCA. She explained that the (RIC) Program is a public way for congregations to declare that they intentionally welcome, include, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, as well as for other marginalized persons such as persons of color or differently abled individuals. She noted that Grace is already known as a welcoming church and this would be another step in more intentionally affirming that commitment. Much discussion was held regarding the meaning of such a program, the procedures, the results, and the purpose thereof. It was agreed that the first step would be to find people willing to serve on a task force to gauge congregational interest and to determine how to proceed if such interest is established. Pastor Jennifer will mention this in the newsletter and persons who are interested in serving on the task force should let her know. In addition, people were encouraged to talk to others who might be interested in so serving.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Jim Jermain moved to adjourn the meeting, Ann Engelstad seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The next meeting will be a potluck dinner at Pastor Jennifer's house on August 9, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting to follow there at 7:00 p.m. Mary Behling will share her faith story with us. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary

Funerals/Member Deaths

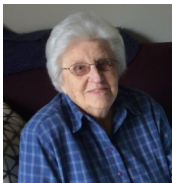
Funeral - Carolyn Scholten – July 6, 2022

Thank you to everyone who helped make Carolyn Scholten's funeral service so special. The memories that were shared were a testimony to her life as an educator and a friend.

Special thanks to Pastor Jennifer for the wonderful message and to the Ruth Circle for serving the luncheon.

Blessings to you all.

Marcia Sivesind



Address Update

Our oldest member, **Eunice Bennin** is now in an assisted living facility: Suite Living, 7007 139th Lane NW, Ramsey, MN 55303

Change in Treasurer Position

Thank you to Tim Neuenschwander for serving as Grace's Treasurer for almost 4 years. And thank you to Amy Simdon for taking over as Treasurer for the remainder of the year.



Free Choir Robes!

Need a Halloween costume? Something for the school play?

Anyone interested may pick up choir robes in the church basement. Robes are machine wash and dry (or hang to dry) and available in a variety of sizes. Stoles are also available.



STAFF

Pastor Jennifer Jelinek Home: 423-2329 Cell: (608) 295-7120 pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com

Admin Assistant Catherine Elliott (608) 423-313531 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.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

Christian Ed Coordinator Teresa Neuenschwander (608) 658-7844 teresa478@hotmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com

COUNCIL

President Kris Tobias

Vice President Kelly Witte

Secretary Mary Behling

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Bill Becker

Stewardship Jennifer Hellberg

Hospitality Jim Jermain

Evangelism Shawn Whitman

Worship Ann Engelstad

Property Bill Reay



Grace Lutheran Church
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