

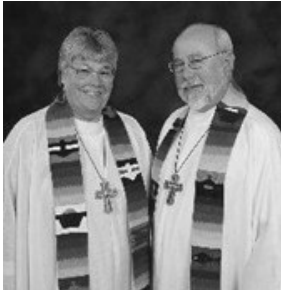


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

AUGUST 2024

Pastors' Ponderings



At our last Sabbatical Committee Meeting, Bob shared with us an article from Living Lutheran – Jan. 14, 2022. It spoke about the challenges we all face after Covid and how the church can especially be a spiritual community and resource to communities. Author Meghan Johnston-Aelabouni says, "Contemplative practices offer just such a resource for people who are weary, overwhelmed or simply searching for something more – a different way to encounter God in a time when so much is suddenly different."

Those words speak eloquently to our Sabbatical theme for August – Reflection. And it offers us a pathway to contemplative practices that may deepen our faith and strengthen our outreach. Such practices include silent meditation, centering prayer, walking a labyrinth, or yoga.

You may be familiar with some of these practices. While we don't have space to go into all of them in detail, we certainly invite you to share your practices and learn about others.

Today we want to focus on just one of the practices – the Labyrinth. That is one that is very special to Loren and me. A good number of years ago, now, we served a congregation that caught a vision of how a labyrinth could enhance our faith journey. After months of study and planning, a group of parishioners met and built the labyrinth on a Sunday afternoon. Members from 3 years old to 70 joined together. Since then, a beautiful Prayer Garden has been added and the congregation welcomes the community to enjoy a "prayer walk."

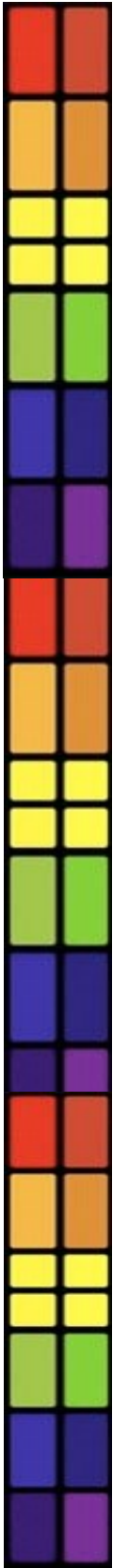
The first thing to know about the labyrinth is that it definitely is not a maze. You can't get lost. Take a look at the labyrinth included in this newsletter. Use a pencil or your finger and follow the path. It leads into the center and back out again. This labyrinth and many Christian labyrinths are based on the one in the Chartes Cathedral in France. It consists of 11 concentric circles that wind their way to the center and back out.

To walk a labyrinth is to take a walk with God. Let me share some thoughts about the labyrinth from East Immanuel Lutheran Church's labyrinth brochure. *"Walking the labyrinth can be an active way of praying. The walk involves our bodies as we physically move along the path, our minds as we meditate on scripture or prayers, and our spirits as we are led by God's Spirit. The path of the labyrinth is like our journey through life, with many twists, turns, and returns. We do not get lost on this path because it always leads to the center which brings us closer to a spiritual home – the heart of God."*

Check out the newsletter article from the Sabbatical Committee for more information on letting the labyrinth be a part of your month of Reflection.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Linda Schumacher





Sabbatical at Grace—A Time of Renewal

The sabbatical theme for August—Reflection, Meditation, Contemplation—provides another opportunity for many of us to try something new. Have you ever walked a Labyrinth as a way of finding a quiet space and frame of mind for prayer or meditation or just for calmness and peace?

The Labyrinth looks like a maze, doesn't it—but it's actually very different from a maze in that the way in and back out again is not at all uncertain. There are no dead ends, and no decisions are required about which turn to take. Simply persevere and follow the path, even though it is winding and circuitous, and you will get to where you want to go. You might think of the outside of the Labyrinth as the world of hectic life, or routine, or multitasking, or distraction, and consider the inner circle to be your quiet spot, away from all the noise and disruption of everyday life. Or think of your walking the Labyrinth as Christians of the Middle Ages thought of this exercise, as a symbolic pilgrimage to a holy place, a spiritual place where one might find a special opportunity to encounter God through prayerful reflection.



When Pastor Jennifer travels to the Scottish Isle of Iona for her time of retreat, she will find a Labyrinth outside the grounds of the Benedictine Abbey where she'll be staying, and chances are good she'll walk it. (See <https://guideposts.org/positive-living/entertainment/travel/12-prayer-labyrinths-from-around-the-world/>) In mid-August a Labyrinth will come to Grace Lutheran for a few days, and we'll then have a chance to engage in 'walking meditation' in a similar way, following in our pastor's footsteps, in a sense. Some of us have done this walk before, or have used a similar 'tool' for meditation or prayer. We encourage you, as you learn more about Labyrinths in the month ahead, to take this walk too.

Want to worship from home? Here's how!

You may have noticed that there have been broadcast issues on Spectrum cable channel 987 lately. 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>

Woman's Circles at Grace

Grace is blessed with two very active Woman's Circles who operate a little behind the scenes, so you may not be aware of them. In short, Circles provide a gathering for women looking for a "safe belonging." It's important to us that we continue to learn about the word of God in a small comfortable and supported environment...where there is no such thing as a stupid question.



Meetings are held once a month and are filled with learning, loving, and laughing (and treats). Our free will donations have supported some very worthy causes such as Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, CART, and wells in Africa, to name just a few. Ruth's Circle meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9am and Lydia's Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9am. It's not mandatory that you attend every meeting. For more information, please contact Sharon Erb at erb8@frontier.com or the church office.

Member Directory Update

We are excited to announce plans to update our member database! This will help us create an online member directory to make communication easier between members of the congregation.

You can easily create or update your member profile online by clicking the link or scanning the QR code provided below. For those who prefer to update their profiles in person, Breah Klemp will be available in the fellowship hall after worship services to assist you. Or you can complete the enclosed form and drop it off at church.

Before the directory goes live, any information entered into the database is only visible to administration, as well as by logging into your personal account. To respect your privacy, please indicate your preference for inclusion into the future public directory:

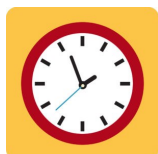
Full Access: Email(s), Phone Number(s), Address, Family Member(s)

Limited Access: Family Member(s) and Email(s)

Opt Out: Personal Profile Only, Not Included in Directory

Once we have the online directory complete, more information will be available for receiving a printed version for anyone interested. Thank you so much for helping us keep our data up to date!

Online Directory: <https://gracecambridge.breezechms.com/login/create>



Pastors' Summer Office Hours

Pastors Loren and Linda are available for pastoral care and emergencies. You can reach them at 715-529-2110 (Linda) and 715-523-0422 (Loren). They will hold summer office hours on Mondays & Thursdays from 9-11am.

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS



- Aug 4 -** Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn Assisting Minister: Jeff Gafner
Reader: Ann Engelstad
Communion Servers: Rich & Dianne Fronek
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Marissa Kilburg & Haven Gill
Coffee Hour Hosts: Geis & Tobias
- Aug 11 -** Ushers: Alice Wolfgram & Judy Heidebrecht Assisting Minister: Diane Fronek
Reader: Shawn Whitman
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tami Collin
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Blake Schutte & Kinsley Stenjem
Coffee Hour Hosts: Northey & Key
- Aug 18 -** Ushers: Justin Williams Family Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte
Reader: Sandy Aston Hall
Communion Servers: Felix Egli & Shauna Thayer
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Haven Gill & Paxton Koehler
Coffee Hour: Neuenschwander & Thayer
- Aug 25-** Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepp Assisting Minister: Rich Fronek
Reader: Mandi Buonincontro
Communion Servers: Angie Bauer Williams & Mandi Buonincontro
Communion Set Up: Geis Family
Acolytes: Cash & Crew Cunningham
Coffee Hour: Muth & Gregory

Altar Guild - Judy Taitt, Janet Koepp & Helen Karberg



Pollinator Garden Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to water our new Pollinator Garden. If you can help in August, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

AUGUST AT GRACE

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28 9 am Worship SERVICE Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	29 9:30 am Quilters	30	31	1	2	3
4 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	5 9:30 am Quilters	6	7 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Commit- tee	8 10 am Staff Mtg	9	10
11 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	12 9:30 am Quilters	13 7pm Council Mtg	14 9 am Lydia Circle	15 Newsletter content deadline	16	17
18 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	19 9:30 am Quilters	20	21	22	23	24
25 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	26 9:30 am Quilters	27	28	29	30	31



Summer Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and 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

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



Sunday School Registration

We are excited to announce that a brand new year of Sunday School begins on September 8th! We look forward to welcoming our students back for another fun year filled with learning, growth, and faith-building activities. Join us as we embark on this wonderful journey together! Any student ages Pre-K to 5th Grade is welcome to attend! Register online to join in this fall; returning families need not register unless information has changed. If you have any questions, please contact Breah Klemp, Christian Education Coordinator at christianedu.glc@gmail.com. We're excited to see you this fall!

Register Here: <https://gracecambridge.breezechms.com/form/3ccadd>



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 the church office or Pastor Jennifer after August 25.

Confirmation Corner



Confirmation begins next month. All 7th and 8th graders are welcome to be part of our Confirmation journey. Look for a letter in the mail later this month. Orientation for 1st and 2nd year students and parents will be on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

We sadly canceled this year's VBS event due to low registrations and a shortage of volunteers. Thank you to those who offered your time and talents!

Over the next few months, we will be revisiting the needs and preferences of our community to better plan for next summer. We would love to hear your feedback on ideas that might work well for your family and summer schedules! Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We look forward to offering enriching programs in the future that bring our community together in faith and fellowship.

Volunteer to Quilt for Kids and Families in Need

Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion but we don't know how to help. If you've wondered how to volunteer to quilt for charity, look no further. Making quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering. Currently Grace Lutheran quilters have 75 completed blankets with a goal of 100 by September. Consider joining the quilters at Grace on Mondays at 9:30 am.

Help Others in Need by Building a Kit

Lutheran World Relief kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in stressful situations. Our church is busy this summer making quilts, collecting items for Baby Care Kits and collecting school supplies for the School Kits. Our deadline is September 1 for completed kits. All three of these projects will be shipped together the following week.



SCHOOL KIT CHECK LIST

- ___ FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- ___ ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ___ ONE pencil sharpener
- ___ ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ___ FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- ___ FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ___ ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ___ ONE 2 ½" eraser
- ___ ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2024**

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

Call to Order. President Kelly Witte called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

Devotions. Connie led devotions.

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

Approval of Agenda. The agenda was amended to remove the Correspondence section and two items from Old Business that have been completed. One item was added to Old Business and one to New Business. Peggy moved to approve the amended agenda. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence. None

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) We had a net loss of \$11,017.92 in May, however year-to-date (YTD) we still have a net income of \$7,154.73. Our YTD General Giving at the end of May was \$6,311 higher than 2023 and \$5,217 over the YTD budget. YTD Special Giving was \$4,280 more than last year and over \$5,850 more than budget. Our YTD expenses were \$45,593 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 almost the same as last year. We are \$27,526 over our budget due to those same one-time expenses. YTD net ordinary income would be about -\$9,482 if the sabbatical grant and expenses are not included. This is about \$15,525 less than last year at the end of May. The checking balance decreased by about \$18,000 with the general fund balance decreasing by approximately \$4,675. The larger expenses in May were taken out of designated funds for the Building Fund, Sabbatical and Youth Gathering. We also have money invested in CDs that will mature soon and be deposited into the checking account (Building \$10,636.72 & Sabbatical \$7,500). Char moved to approve this treasurer's report and send it to audit. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. (Prs. Linda & Loren) The Pastors' usual office hours will be Mondays 9 AM – 11 AM and Thursdays or Fridays 10 AM – noon. They are also available as needed by the congregation. They will be incorporating the three sabbatical themes into their sermons.

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

Education. (Kristin) Vacation Bible School planning is in progress.

Outreach & Social Justice. (April) Items are being collected by the congregation for Lutheran World Relief baby care kits.

Stewardship. (Connie) The pollinator garden has been planted. Project complete, except for watering as needed. See "Letter of Thanks" in New Business.

Sabbatical Team Report. (Bob) In July the congregation will focus on opportunities to engage. Vacation Bible School will be held July 15-18. It was suggested that we encourage adults in the congregation to come and observe. There will be a sending service on July 14 for individuals who will be attending the ELCA Youth and Young Adult Gathering in New Orleans. They will share their thoughts and experiences during the service on July 28. It was suggested that those going be paired with adults from the congregation as prayer partners during this time. This month is also an ideal time to prayerfully think about our roles at church. What might we do to contribute? We will add Pr. Jennifer to our prayer list.

The theme for August will be reflection. Planning is underway and will focus on contemplation and meditation. There may be an introduction to labyrinth walking. The team is considering another music-focused worship service on August 18.

Old Business. Church Picnic. The potluck picnic will be held on Sunday, June 23. Worship will be indoors. Andrew Punsel will grill brats and hotdogs. Volunteers were recruited to help set up tables and chairs outdoors.

Retirement Party. As previously approved by our council, Pr. Jennifer will host her husband Erik's retirement party at our church on the afternoon of Saturday, June 29. The Jelinek family will take care of everything. Nothing is required of us.

New Business. Letter of Thanks. Kelly was asked to sign a letter written by the Stewardship Committee thanking community member Georgia Gomez-Ibanez for her expertise and generous time commitment in helping to establish the pollinator garden.

Ideas for Realigning Duties. Ideas were shared for possibly lightening Pr. Jennifer's workload by congregation members assuming some activities that she typically handles. The topic was tabled until a future meeting when we can learn her preferences.

Adjournment. Amy moved to adjourn the meeting. Kristin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting. We will not hold a meeting in July. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13 at 7:00 PM. Shawn is scheduled to present devotions.

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand, Council Secretary

From the Treasurer

June 2024 Financial Snapshot

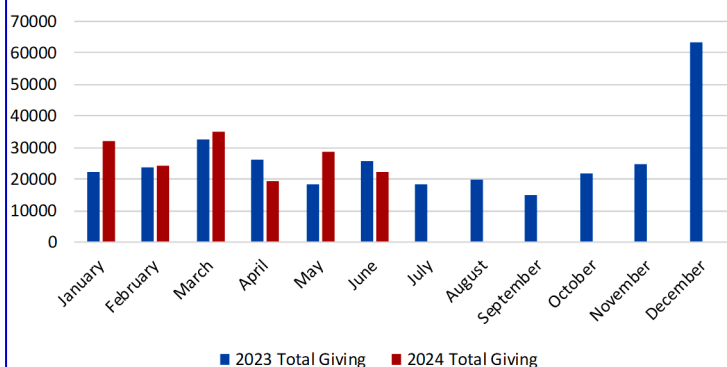
Income	Year-to-date June 2024 Actual	Year-to-date 2024 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	140,241	138,000	2,241
Special Giving	15,724	10,000	5,724
Sabbatical Giving	35,939	30,950	4,989
Misc Income	2,662	1,650	1,012
Total Income	194,566	180,600	13,966
Expenses			
Administrative	65,625	53,684	11,941
Mission	27,920	21,500	6,420
Pastoral	90,272	84,731	5,541
Program	4,599	5,210	(611)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	188,415	165,125	23,291
Total Net Income (Loss)	6,150	15,476	(9,325)

Thank you for your generous giving. Please remember that in addition to the Sunday service, you can give online through Vanco <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YYN7> or through Venmo, using the QR code.

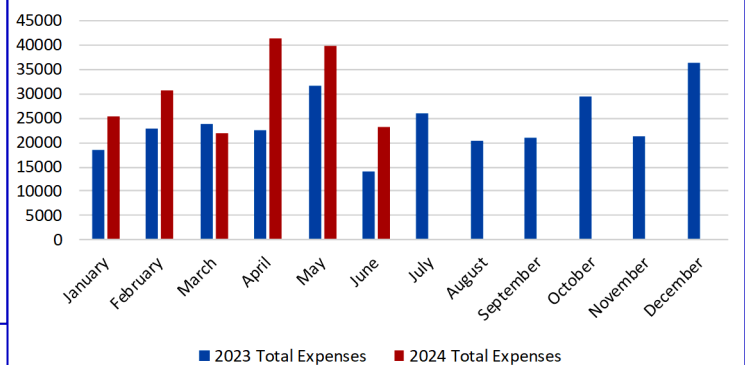


venmo

Comparison of Total Giving - 2023/2024



Comparison of Total Expenses - 2023/2024





Staff and Council



STAFF

Sabbatical Pastors Loren & Linda Schumacher

Pastor Linda 715-529-2110 ljschumacher51@gmail.com

Pastor Loren - 715-523-0422 zionloren@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 Kelly Witte

Vice President Bob Koepp

Secretary Char Luchterhand

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Kristin Rue

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

Evangelism Shawn Whitman

Worship Sandi Aston Hall

Property John Jensen &

Richard Scott



MEMBER INFORMATION ONLINE DIRECTORY UPDATES

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE(H) _____

PHONE(M) _____

ADDRESS _____

PREFERRED CONTACT METHOD: (CHECK ANY)

- ☐ ANY
- ☐ CELL PHONE
- ☐ HOME PHONE
- ☐ EMAIL

PERSONAL INFORMATION

BIRTHDATE ____ / ____ / ____

GENDER

- ☐ MALE
- ☐ FEMALE
- ☐ PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

MARITAL STATUS

- ☐ SINGLE
- ☐ DIVORCED STATUS
- ☐ ENGAGED
- ☐ WIDOWED
- ☐ PARTNERED
- ☐ SEPERATED
- ☐ MARRIED

WEDDING DATE _____



NEWSLETTER

SEND NEWSLETTER

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

NEWSLETTER METHOD

- ☐ PRINT
- ☐ DIGITAL/EMAIL

DIRECTORY PREFERENCES

In the near future, Grace will be working on an online directory to make communication easier between members of the congregation. Before this goes live, any information entered in the Breeze database is only visible to administration as well as by logging into your personal account. To respect your privacy, please indicate your preference for including into this directory.

FULL ACCESS: Emails, Phone Numbers, Address, Family Members

LIMITED ACCESS: Family Members and Emails

OPT OUT: Personal Profile Only, Not Included in Directory

ONLINE DIRECTORY ☐ Full ☐ Limited ☐ Opt Out

PRINTED DIRECTORY ☐ Full ☐ Limited ☐ Opt Out

TIME AND TALENTS

Please select any volunteer roles you would be interested in participating in.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

- ☐ Usher
- ☐ Church Council
- ☐ Communion Set Up
- ☐ Coffee Hour
- ☐ Assistant Minister
- ☐ Reader
- ☐ Communion Server

COMMITTEES

- ☐ Christian Education
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Evangelism
- ☐ Outreach
- ☐ Property



Grace Lutheran Church
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Cambridge, WI 53523

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on Channel
987

