



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

April, 2020



Pastor's Ponderings

What a month it's been. We began March at the beginning of Lent, starting the journey to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. We began the Lenten challenge, meeting Zoom-the-goat in worship and learned about how goats can give life and livelihoods to people in

poorer countries. Already we've brought in enough money for 29 goats. We watched several Lenten dramas and sang Holden Evening Prayer together before we had to stop gathering, due to the Coronavirus.

And ministry since then has been completely different than anything we've ever done before. Your health and safety are the most important thing, but a close second for me is helping you continue to feel connected to God and to others in our congregation. "Social distancing" can be so isolating and lonely. Some of us only get to see our families. Others live alone and only see others through our windows. So at this time especially, we need to be reminded of God's love, healing powers, and presence with us. So that's what your Grace staff has been working on. We've moved a lot of our ministry online, but we're also hoping to do more of a phone ministry for our folks who don't have internet and for those who seek more companionship.

You'll notice that this newsletter is shorter than usual, simply because we're not able to gather and do many of the things we had hoped to be able to do. Yes, there's a lot that we've had to give up, including in-person meetings, gatherings, and worship, but there is still so much we can do, especially virtually. You'll read more about those things inside this issue.

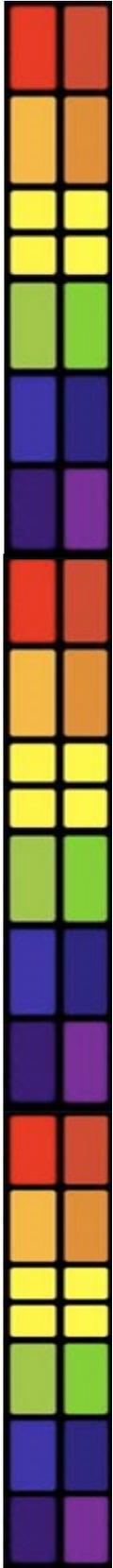
I plan to put out another short newsletter at the beginning of Holy Week, to keep you up-to-date on what we're able to do during that most important week of our church year. It's likely that we'll have to get creative with our worship experiences. Many of us have wondered, "What about Easter?" Even if we can't gather, I will post some sort of Easter worship on Facebook, but I know that won't "feel like Easter." So I'm declaring that when we're finally able to come together to worship as a community again, we'll have a big Easter celebration then, no matter what month it falls in.

My friends, this Coronavirus crisis is serious, but it's not permanent. What is permanent and guaranteed is that we have a God who has walked with us every day of our lives, and God will see us through this. Until then, may God alleviate your fears and keep you healthy, positive, and comforted with the promise of new life in Christ. May we see God in new and powerful ways through this challenge, and may God bring us closer together, uniting us through adversity and compassion.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer

Table of Contents	
Message from Pastor	1
All Things Grace	2
Outreach	4
Sunday School/High School	5
Grace Council Minutes	6
Grace Gifts	7
Staff & Council Contacts	8



Safer-at-Home

We've just heard that Governor Evers has given a "Safer-at-Home" order, which means that nearly all businesses are closed for the time being. Grace staff will be working from our homes. This order will likely affect a few things – our ability to record worship for the TV broadcast, sending out mass-mailings, etc. Please know that we're doing all we can to stay connected and to keep you connected. For the most recent updates, we encourage those of you with internet access to keep an eye on your e-mail, on Grace's Facebook page and our website. If you don't have internet access, please feel free to contact Virginia or Pastor Jennifer for updates. We're compiling a list of those with no internet access.

Worship

While we're unable to worship together, Pastor Jennifer will continue to post worship services to Grace's Facebook page and to YouTube each week. If we're allowed to come to the building on Sundays, we'll do our best to get the worship service on the local broadcast. However, changing state orders may prevent that for the time being.

Giving During Corona

Even (and especially) during the Coronavirus crisis, the ministries of the church work to help those in need. And your church staff is working hard to continue those ministries. So even (and especially) during this crisis, we encourage you to continue giving offerings to Grace, so our ministries can continue. You're always welcome to send offering checks in the mail, or if you'd rather give online, check out our website gracelutherancambridge.org to do that. Thanks so much for your generosity!

Monday Night Bible Study

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, our Monday Night Bible Study has continued to go off without a hitch. Rather than meeting at church, we meet on Zoom. Zoom enables us to see and hear one another and have the exact same conversations we would've had in person. Our current study, "Final Words from the Cross" will continue through April 6. Anyone is invited to join. Even if you don't have webcam capability (on computer, tablet, or phone), you can actually call in from your phone and participate in the audio. Monday Night Zoom Bible Studies will continue throughout April.

Even if Bible studies sound boring, or intimidate you, this is the perfect opportunity to check it out. We have great conversations and have fun together. If you're interested in joining the Monday night study via phone or online, please contact Pastor Jennifer, and she'll get you the connection invitation.

New Book Study

What better way to pass time at home than by reading a book? You're invited to join our Grace Book Club in reading "Holy Envy" by Barbara Brown Taylor (one of Pastor Jennifer's favorite authors). This book is about Barbara Brown Taylor's spiritual journey, exploring world religions by teaching them to her college students. In this journey, she came to deeply appreciate and even long for so many of the traditions and practices of other religions, something she calls, "Holy Envy." This book shares some of her personal stories as well as the things that she learned and taught along the way.

This book is available on Amazon. You can download a Kindle version for \$12.99 or order a copy (Paperback - \$11.99, Hardcover - \$17.59) This will be an online Bible study held twice a week – Mondays and Thursdays at Noon. Pastor Jennifer will make it interactive by hosting it on Zoom (available via internet or phone). Sessions can be recorded for those who can't attend at those times. If you would like to be part of this study, [please contact Pastor Jennifer](#) so she can send you an invitation for this discussion. The first session will be on Thursday, April 2 at Noon.

Sunday School

Teresa Neuenschwander is sending out Sunday School worksheets and activities on Grace's Facebook page and over e-mail.

Confirmation Corner

Pastor Jennifer's sermons are available for taking notes on Grace's Facebook page. And even with the current situation, students and mentors can continue reading the Gospel of Mark together (online or over the phone) throughout the season of Lent. A guide is in your Mentorship Booklet. Need a second copy? Contact Pastor Jennifer.

Grace Phone Tree Ministry

We're working on a Phone Ministry to stay in touch with one another, particularly those who live alone and/or don't have other means to stay connected. Are you interested in calling folks during this time of isolation? If so, please contact Virginia - 623-680-3696 gracelutheran-cambridgewi@gmail.com Or if you'd like someone from church to talk to during this difficult time, please contact Virginia as well.

If You Need Something...

If you've got a prayer request, if you have question for the church staff, or if you have a special need, please feel free to call, text, or e-mail Pastor Jennifer – 608-295-7120 pastorjennifer-glc@gmail.com or Virginia Becker 623-680-3696 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com



Thank you to Michael Rehak and Pira Mueller for making the wonderful cocoon in which our Alleluias were placed by our children at the beginning of Lent. We hope to see the emerging butterflies when next we worship together and can proclaim a vibrating and joyful Alleluia!

It would be nice to send a card of encouragement to our Homebound during this period of more isolation.

OUR HOMEBOUND

Jon Bakken
309 Oriole Lane
Cambridge, WI 53523

Geraldine Rattmann
2629 Highland Drive
Cambridge, WI 53523

Bev Nottestad
118 S. Pleasant St.
Cambridge, WI 53523

Mary Ellen Smith
912 Monroe St., Apt. 11
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Shirley Engelstad

Char Kenseth
555 W. Madison #5
Cambridge, WI 53523

Outreach & Social Justice News



Goats are Superheroes! No kidding!

Wasn't it fun to have a little goat in church last month? Zoom was certainly a well-behaved kid! I think Greta enjoyed your interest and questions after the service, too. And we all learned more about the ELCA's World Hunger program from Rev. Ramie Bakken, and how much goats mean to communities in Malawi and other countries.

Our herd of goats is growing, thanks to your donations!! At the present time we have 29 in the pasture. We welcome all donations, large and small, to reach our goal of 40 goats (\$2000) by Easter Sunday. (This date may be extended if Coronavirus keeps us from church.) Please remember that checks can be made out to

"Grace", with "Lenten Challenge" in the memo line and can be sent to Grace: 501 Skogen Road.

Stay well. Take care of yourself and your neighbors!



**Lenten Challenge Goal:
raise a herd of at least 40 goats, or \$2000**



Sunday School

Teresa Neuenschwander,
Christian Education Coordinator
teresa478@hotmail.com



"Tremendous Faith - Growing In God's Word"

How Will You Serve God?

Service Sundays

Our **last Service Sunday** was on **March 8th**. We collected items for **American Family Children's Hospital**. During Sunday School we made craft bags and tie blankets for patients.

Milestones Sunday



Pre-K & Kindergarten Art



1st & 2nd Grade Prayer Chain

5th Grade
Luther's Rose
Stained Glass



Milestone
Celebration
Party



Easter flowers



Thank you to all of you who ordered Easter flowers. Though we may not be able to worship together on Easter Sunday, we hope to use them as a backdrop to our worship online. Thank you!

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:30 p.m.

Attendees. Steve Geis, Kris Tobias, Tim Neuenschwander, Lori Jensen, Amy Simdon, Jean Scott, Ann Engelstad, Mary Behling, and Jennifer Jelinek. Excused: Erik Olson, Amanda Kosanda, and Tom Kosanda.

Devotions. Amy Simdon presented devotions for this meeting.

Old Business.

This was moved up in the Agenda to accommodate the guests. Diane Rindahl and Lisa Jensen were present to explain their request to use a portion of Grace's hospitality area for Senior Respite Day Care 2-4 days/month. They presented their program and indicated they are only asking to use the space. After they left, it was agreed that we would be interested, but need more information regarding insurance coverage and need/interest in the community. Tim will contact Church Mutual. Pastor Jennifer will talk to other faith leaders in the community.

Consent Agenda.

Amy Simdon moved to approve the consent agenda including all committee reports and the February minutes. Tim Neuenschwander seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Property Report.

Steve Geis stated the bill came in for repairing the beams. It was less than expected (probably because it didn't include painting) and has been paid. Men's Group is discussing doing the painting. New paper towel dispensers have been installed. Brief discussion of need for new dishwasher in the kitchen in the future.

Treasurer's Report.

Tim Neuenschwander presented the treasurer's report. Special giving was up again and general giving remained high in February. Expenditures were also up, particularly mission-related expenses. They are still working on getting items classified properly and in a more understandable form. A principal payment was made on the remodeling loan last month and the current outstanding balance is just over \$99,500. Lori Jensen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Amy Simdon seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report.

Pastor Jennifer noted that there is a desire to track youth fund contributions and expenses more specifically by the individual trip or event. Different ideas for accounting are being discussed. The 2020 Team has met and set a goal of listening to congregational stories for future planning purposes. She will be on vacation the week of March 23. The Lenten study is going well. Camper's Breakfast is Sunday, May 15. The healing service is coming up soon. Everything is basically set for Holy Week.

Two matters require voting: 1.) The signature cards at the bank need to be updated for the Scholarship CD and for the Line of Credit. Lori Jensen moved to authorize Steve Geis, Diane Russo, and Tim Neuenschwander to sign on both accounts. Jean Scott seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. 2.) Tim moved to allow Diane Russo (Grace Financial Secretary) to view church information online at Hometown Bank where she is employed. Amy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

New Business.

A request has been received to sell Scrip again to fund the youth mission trip. Tim moved to approve the request. Kris Tobias seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Also, the intern that Pastor Jennifer is mentoring is working on an inter-generational mission trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota next summer. She asked if we would include information about it in our bulletin and invite anyone interested to contact her.

Adjournment.

Next meeting will be April 14, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. at Grace.

There being no further business, Tim Neuenschwander moved to adjourn. Lori Jensen seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary.



This year, we would like to recognize our "Grace Gifts"...our most prized people, who share their time and talents with us each and every month! This month, let us appreciate our helpful Ushers!



Aiden Sperle



Jane & Jeff Spindler



John Adsit family, Merlin & Tiana, Borchardt, Roger Borchardt, Steve Borchardt family, Buonincontro family, Michael Cunningham family, Drotzer family, Marlene Evenson, Gary & Sharon Haberkorn, Jim & Pat Hall, Cindy Hartman, Tim, Evy & Cole Bakken Jeffers, Jeff Johnson family, Keith & Barbara Johnston, Scott Key Family, Dale & Marcia Klemp, Wendy Lehr, Tim & Teresa Neuenschwander family, Al & Pat, Matt & Tammy Northey families, Andrew & Peggy Punsel family, Bill & Betty, Reay, David & Kristin Rue family, Richard & Jean Scott, Rob & Lisa Sperle family, Jeff & Jane Spindler, Shawnee Sullivan family, Perry Thompson-family, Kris & Renee Tobias family, Duane Veium & Evie Lund, Justin & Angie Williams family

E.L.C.A.
501 Skogen Road
Cambridge, WI
53523

Place stamp
here

Place address sticker here;

Gathering in grace, Growing in faith, Serving in love.

www.gracelutherancambridge.org

“Like Us” on Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Church-Cambridge, WI

Please note:
We broadcast on
Channel 987

Staff & Council Contacts

<u>Pastor:</u>	Jennifer Jelinek	Home: 423-2329	Cell: (608) 295-7120	pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Virginia Becker		(608) 423-3135	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Diane Russo		(608) 423-3135	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<u>Music Director:</u>	Judy Brandt		(608) 239-6948	judithbrandt@gmail.com
<u>Handbell Choir Director:</u>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u>	Teresa Neuenschwander		(608) 658-7844	teresa478@hotmail.com
<u>High School Youth Coordinator:</u>	Jaci Brovont		(608)217-2453	jcb8184@gmail.com
<u>Volunteer Coordinator:</u>	Cindy Hartman			cindyh1029@msn.com

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<u>President :</u>	Steve Geis	swgeis@yahoo.com
<u>Vice President</u>	Kris Tobias	
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mary Behling	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tim Neuenschwander	
<u>Outreach:</u>	Jean Scott	
<u>Education:</u>	Amanda Kosanda	
<u>Stewardship</u>	Amy Simdon	
<u>Hospitality:</u>	Lori Jensen	
<u>Evangelism:</u>	Erik Olsen	
<u>Worship:</u>	Ann Engelstad	
<u>Property:</u>	Tom Kosanda	